

Dear Madam/Sir,

I do not support the recommendation to revoke DGR Status for Religious Education in Government Schools (RIGS) funds, on the apparent basis that Special Religious Education (SRE) has little 'community-wide benefit'. This overlooks the high levels of benefit conferred on the public through the provision of religious instruction. SRE delivers key psychological benefits in students, promotes a thick multiculturalism within local communities and reduces the risk of student radicalisation. The wider benefits of SRE are also affirmed by the fact that many non-religious parents choose to place their children in SRE.

Further, I do not support the abolition of the Basic Religious Charity (BRC) category. The abolition of the BRC category will impose significant reporting and compliance requirements on larger churches. It will also enable the ACNC Commissioner to remove and appoint leaders of religious institutions, which raises Constitutional concerns. Given the local nature of BRCs, existing financial disclosures and governance standards are appropriate.

Kind regards,

Carl Neal