

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Request to Reconsider the Proposal to Remove Deductible Gift Recipient Status for Non-Government Schools, childcare, aged care and other Religious Organisations

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed plan to eliminate Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government schools and religious organisations. I understand that the government is constantly evaluating policies to ensure a fair and efficient allocation of resources, but I believe that such a decision may have unintended consequences that could negatively impact our communities.

Non-government schools and religious organisations play a crucial role in our society, providing essential services, education, and support that contribute to the well-being of individuals and communities. The DGR status has been a vital tool in encouraging philanthropic contributions to these organisations, enabling them to carry out their missions effectively.

Here are some key reasons why retaining DGR status for non-government schools and religious organisations is important:

1. **Community Support and Engagement:** Non-government schools and religious organisations often rely on the generosity of individuals and corporations to fund various projects, educational initiatives, and community services. The DGR status serves as an incentive for donors to contribute, fostering a sense of community support and engagement.
2. **Education and Social Services:** Many non-government schools provide quality education and contribute significantly to the development of a well-educated and skilled workforce. Similarly, religious organisations often run programs that address social issues, including poverty, homelessness, and mental health. Revoking DGR status could hinder their ability to raise funds for these essential services.
3. **Diversity in Education:** Non-government schools contribute to the diversity of our education system, offering alternative approaches and specialized programs that cater to the diverse needs of students. The removal of DGR status may limit the financial resources available to these schools, potentially affecting the quality and variety of educational opportunities for students.
4. **Preservation of Cultural and Religious Heritage:** Religious organisations play a vital role in preserving cultural and religious heritage. The DGR status encourages philanthropic support for these organisations, enabling them to

maintain heritage sites, conduct cultural events, and provide valuable services to the community.

I understand the need for fiscal responsibility and the efficient allocation of resources. However, I urge the government to reconsider the potential consequences of removing DGR status for non-government schools and religious organisations. A collaborative approach that involves stakeholders from these sectors may help find alternative solutions that address concerns without compromising the essential services they provide to our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I trust that, in the spirit of ensuring a vibrant and diverse civil society, the government will carefully weigh the implications before making a final decision on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Daniel Draffin