

I think this topic of Religion is a very complicated one, and for me it's difficult to keep an impartial view due to my many years of involvement in Scientology.

Having said that, I think it is important that when we talk about a Public Benefit Test being created for Religious groups we need to be far more specific with regards to "WHO"

For me I do not think there is any reason to generalize or beat around the bush as they say. No matter how I look at this for me this issue has come about due to the reports on Scientology not the Catholic Church or any other Church for that matter. The amount of reports on Scientology form "A Current Affair" to "Today Tonight" and ABC and individual reports sent to Senators is the reason for this. There is just too many to ignore.

I do not think it is correct to involve all "Religions"
All though my involvement with other religions is slim I would like to use the Catholic Church as an example here.

A Priest is available for confessions and perhaps as someone to just seek advice from. Sunday services benefit the community bringing them together and this is free, sure at the end an Alter boy may come around with a "hat" were you can donate but it is okay to donate 5c or \$50 it does not matter. It's a place you can go to when distressed due to a loss or even just get some peace and direction.

This to me is of benefit to society and I do not think that in this example the Catholic Church should be brought into this and have to pass a "Public Benefits Test"

For sure there are many Churches based on the Bible that do good and it's free to the community. That to me is a Religion and something that would be deserving of a Tax break or other benefits offered by the Australian Government.

In contrary Scientology has services "counseling sessions" that cost up to \$1000.00 per hour.

Scientology has a price list, every book, every course and every type of counseling has an exact cost that you have to pay in order to receive that service.

You receive an invoice after payment in Scientology.

They have a policy saying they do not give refunds after three months.

There is no free open Community help on a day to day basis.

Internally the Staff work by "Statistics" like graphs in the business world, which includes a graph called "Gross Income"

Does this not sound like a Business?

A group that can charge such alarming figures for its services surely does not deserve the same benefits as say the Catholic Church.

There is no need for a "Tax Exempt" status for Scientology as Scientology sells and charges for everything it does just like a normal business and as Businesses we all pay tax in Australia.

Please lets not cloud the real "Religions" that help society because of one group that has dominated the news with stories of abuse lets take a look at Scientology and perhaps any other "Religion" that has an abundance of negative feedback about it.
Thank you.

