

Submission to Senate Committee Inquiry Tax Laws Amendment (Public Benefits Test) Bill 2010

Mr. Lachlan John McKenzie

It is my firm opinion that the benefits of any institution should be weighed against the risks it may have on society, whether possible or historical.

However religion, a loose term at best, receives preferential treatment in this regard.

Benefit is assumed to be an innate quality of religious institutions, but this logic is plainly wrong. There may be an argument that they overwhelmingly do good, but this is contested by a large proportion of the community, be they atheists, secularists, people of other religions and even some inside the organisations in question.

Doubtless there are many charitable religious organisations, as there are secular ones.

The fact that religiousness is assumed to be a good quality in today's age of reason offends what I have come to learn about my Australian education in which I was taught to question, investigate, and scrutinise.

Organisations such as churches and community groups have the ability to scrutinise the Federal Government, so it is only logical the Federal Government should subject the same scrutiny to those institutions.

It should seem obvious that purported benefits of anything should be investigated. Of course, the Australian Christian Lobby and the Church of Scientology will likely mount the largest protest, but if they have nothing to hide then any objection could only mean two things:

- 1) They have something to hide, in which case they should be investigated.
- 2) They have nothing to hide, in which case any objection would be based on offence.

In the second case, surely any offence must be weighed against the benefit of members.

There have been countless proven examples of child rape, the worst of crimes, in churches. These are often covered up, as admitted by the current Pope.

This is the most disgusting perversion of power. It is like a corrupt government that assures its public they have conducted an internal investigation.

Great claims require great evidence.

And the proposed Tax Law Amendment (Public Benefits Test) Bill 2010 will allow the Federal Government to investigate these claims in an impartial way.

Lachlan John McKenzie

*I am not a member of any current or past political party nor have I decided upon my vote for the next federal election.