



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

17<sup>th</sup> April 2003

Dr Kathleen Dermody  
Secretary  
*Senate Economics References Committee*  
Room SG 64  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Dr Dermody,

*The Structure and Distributive Effects of the Australian Taxation System*

I write on behalf of the Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Fr Brian Lucas, concerning your Committee's inquiry noted above. The purpose of this letter is threefold:

1. to record the formal interest of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in this important inquiry;
2. to note that there will be a number of separate submissions provided to the Committee from a wide cross-section of the Catholic community. This cross-section will reflect the diversity of service providers to the Australian community from a variety of sectors, notably in welfare and health care. It will also reflect, and in part explain, a range of emphases that these submissions will exhibit. It may be, of course, that the philosophical and theological foundations for the long-time engagement of Catholic service providers in welfare and health might be presumed, or articulated summarily, more in some submissions than in others;
3. in the light of the matters noted in par.2, it seems apt that the engagement of the Secretariat of this episcopal conference in the inquiry might be more beneficial to your Committee if, for example, comment was either limited to (a) providing materials, or comment, supplementary to the submissions from Catholic agencies, and/or (b) commenting on the Committee's interim report. Of course, if there are any particular questions or issues that the Committee itself might wish to pose to the Church, Fr Lucas would be only too pleased to receive them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Warwick Neville

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT