

Domestic Violence Victoria

Peak body for domestic violence services for women and children



6 May 2004

Dr Sarah Bachelard
Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Room SG.64
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Bachelard

Re: Inquiry into the Taxation Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No 1) Bill 2004

I am writing on behalf of domestic violence services of Victoria to strongly urge The Committee to defer the proposed Tax Amendments until some time after modernised Charitable Definitions as proposed by the Board of Taxation have been clarified and legislated.

We are very concerned that, as it stands, the new draft Bill lacks definitions and focuses on new endorsement obligations, processes and other matters. In requesting this change of approach, we endorse the submissions already made to The Committee by the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) and others.

Our organisations operate under increasingly tight funding allocations, while our services face ever mounting demands. Existing DGR and ITEC status allows us to make the most of our budgets. We are worried that the passing of the proposed Bill would deepen uncertainty about the viability of our work, the status of our operations re the GST, and our legality as fund-raisers and employers. Most of us are managed at a community level by voluntary committees of management.

May we please request a breathing space to deal with possible changes to the Charitable Definitions before moving into the complexities of seeking re-endorsements?

Yours sincerely,

Janet Hall
For Domestic Violence Victoria

