

Dear Committee Members,

Inquiry into the Disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations

I wish to make the following points please:

Recommendation 9 says:

That where closed or contemplative religious orders regularly undertake prayerful intervention at the request of the public, their purposes be held to have met the public benefit test.

This should be rejected – the effectiveness of prayer is based only on some ancient mythologies, and has no scientific theory to underpin it. Moreover, actual tests of the efficacy of prayer in improving disease outcomes have shown it is useless. John Howard asked us to pray for rain, but the CSIRO models of climate include inputs from solar flux, CO2 content, topography, cloud cover etc – but do NOT include a “prayer” factor.

Page 12 says:

Charitable purposes shall include:... the advancement of religion;*

And Recommendation 14 says:

That the definition of religion be based on the principles established in the Scientology case, namely:

- *belief in a supernatural Being, Thing or Principle; and*
- *acceptance and observance of canons of conduct in order to give effect to that belief.*

This should be rejected on the basis that science has shown that the natural world is self-contained, ie it receives no influence from anywhere else. Thus, the “supernatural” does not exist. Belief in it comes from the medieval age, before the scientific process. It should be recognized that for anything to be a religion, it has to be wrong.

In this century we should be moving away from favoured treatment of religion by state. Where religious groups run charities, the charities must be separated, and subject to the same transparency rules as any other charity.

Sincerely

Ian R Bryce
BSc BE(Hons)

Backup information (based on science) on all the above, is given on my website
www.worldTRUTHday.org