



Mountains Youth Services Team Inc

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Committee Secretary ☐
Senate Economics Committee ☐
Department of the Senate ☐
PO Box 6100 ☐ Parliament House ☐
Canberra ACT 2600 ☐



10 August 2008

Dear Committee,

I write to make a formal submission to your Committee regarding the disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations.

Mountains Youth Services Team (MYST) is a not-for-profit organisation made up of seven youth projects. These projects are largely funded through the NSW Department of Community Services.

Included in our projects are two Family and Adolescent Counseling services, which provide professional family and individual therapy and case management for clients with mental health issues. We also operate a Family Support Service using community development strategies working with at-risk young people with mental health issues. The service provides support, referrals, information, advocacy and a small brokerage service for those young people and their families.

Further more MYST provides a number of in-school programs working with young people who have been identified by the school as being at risk of not completing their education. These programs address behavioural issues such as anger management, consequential decision-making and healthy recreational choices. These programs and the other projects of MYST seek to provide early intervention in the lives of young people in order to prevent future suffering.

Because of this, because we work to prevent suffering, not relieve suffering when it does happen, MYST is not eligible for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status.

Not having DGR status significantly limits our capacity to secure funding. It significantly limits our ability to secure and retain experienced and qualified staff. Due to our ineligibility for some sources of funding we current need to form partnerships with organisations that have DGR status, which is not the most direct and efficient way to apply for funding or to manager programs.

We respectfully ask the Committee to recommend changing the eligibility criteria for PBI and DGR status to include community organisations that are engaged in the prevention of suffering rather than just the elevation. We must all surely agree that prevention is better then treatment.

Sincerely,

Damian M Cooper
Manager
Mountains Youth Services Team