

We have the Liberal Party talking about the need to reduce pension payment, to increase university fees, reduction of social security payments and services and the need for taxation reform and now we have the NSW Greens proposal to reinstate the vendor duty. When are we going to have a discussion about the fact that the commercial/business operations of the Churches are not taxed? Why do the Churches which make hundreds of millions of dollars profit not pay one cent of tax? A great percentage of the profits made by the commercial activities of the Churches are taken offshore and do not benefit Australia.

If we are going to discuss tax reform surely it is time to discuss taxing of the Churches on profits made by their commercial/business activities. None of the rubbish that the profits are ploughed into charities.

Does having "everything on the table" include the COMMERCIAL activities of the churches paying tax?

The Catholic Church, if it was regarded as a commercial organisation, would be the 10 largest company in the country. Hillsong also makes in the region of 70 million a year and not one sent of tax is paid.

In short, the Churches do not pay income tax, capital gains tax, land tax, fringe benefits tax or council rates and taxes. It should be noted that even the Vatican is now paying the Italian Government land tax.

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