

2nd August 2017

Senior Advisor
Individual and Indirect Tax Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent,
Parkes, ACT 2600

Email: DGR@Treasury.gov.au

Dear Sir,

RE TAX DEDUCTABILITY GIFT RECIPIENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre Inc has been providing volunteer services to Bendigo and surrounding municipalities for 15 years, during this period the organisation has attempted to gain DGR status on at least two occasions, without success.

Our Peek Organisation Volunteering Victoria has enjoyed this status, yet we undertake the same charitable work within our community, and are denied this important facility, as it limits our ability to access a number of grants made available to the community that insist the recipient having DGR status.

The Centre places more than 3000 volunteers into volunteering with over 200 local charities per year, which in economic terms is the equivalent of a cost saving to the community of \$6m.

Unfortunately, many our clients experience extreme hardships including, homelessness, loneliness, disconnection from family and friends, destitution and are disengaged from society. We believe everyone deserves a hand up and it's our endeavour to assist these people to restore their self-worth and confidence, while connecting them to support services we assist by identifying their skills and talents, connecting them to meaningful volunteer opportunities which eventually leads them into paid work and reconnections with society.

The charities we send these volunteers are likely to have DGR status however because we are the "intervening enabler" we are denied this facility as it is claimed that we do not provide direct service to the client.

It is our submission, if we were not to exist, that the charities would find it much more difficult to find volunteers and our society would be the poorer for this state of affairs. Our work directly impacts on the level of volunteering in our community and on that sense, we provide a direct

service by providing over 3000 volunteers into our community, the range of charities enjoying our service from “cradle to grave” throughout all stratum of our society.

Government and Local Government financial support has reduced over the years placing the Centre in the position of having to supplement our income from business and philanthropic trusts, most of these requiring us to have DGR status to access their grants.

Our submission requests that the charitable work we undertake be acknowledged as a direct service to the wider community and be granted DGR status to assist this very important and vital community service to continue to operate and be able to resource those philanthropic resources that need DGR status to be able to provide financial assistance.

Should you seek further information, please contact me by mobile [REDACTED]

Kind regards



Paul Kirkpatrick

Chairman

Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre Inc.