



Gold Coast Housing Association Inc.

Incorporation No. IA 13425

ABN: 38 952 297 766

~~Office Phone: (07) 5591 2706~~

~~Fax: (07) 5591 2706~~

~~Mobile: 0419 022 253~~

~~16 Railway Street
Southport Qld 4215~~

~~Email: info@goldcoasthousing.org.au~~

~~www.goldcoasthousing.org.au~~

Postal Address: PO Box 1957 Southport Qld 4215

19 November 2011

The Manager
Philanthropy and Exemptions Unit
Personal and Retirement Income Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir / Madam

Re : Consultation regarding "Charities" Definition

We write to express our view regarding the definition of "Charity".

In particular, we have a view that any definition of "charity" should include the requirement that any elected officeholder (eg President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee, Chair, Directors) must **NOT** be paid any fees for their services.

We believe that charities are distinctive from "for profit" organisations, and what makes them so is the voluntary principle - the willingness of those who govern charities to give time freely for the benefit of others and not for their own financial reward.

This is an important principle and helps to sustain trust and confidence in charities.

The argument is raised that by paying the officeholders, we can enlist a better "standard" of officeholder. We believe that paying officeholders will do nothing to increase the availability or standards of officeholders as those who are drawn to assist in the governance of a charity should do so out of commitment to the cause of the charity and not in exchange for personal reward.

Also, by paying officeholders, it puts them in a position where their personal interests conflict with their duty to act in the interests of the charity.

We would like to see a clause included that specifically prohibits the payment of Directors Fees, Committee Fees, Professional Fees or similar to any elected officeholder.

We thank you for the opportunity.

Yours faithfully
Gold Coast Housing Association Inc

Stephen Baker
Chair