

From: John Turner
Sent: Tuesday, 8 November 2011 9:32 AM
To: NFP Reform Consultation
Subject: Charity status

Religion is rightly losing its grip over human thought. The Scandinavian countries lead the OECD countries in most aspects of human well being and in those countries religious influence is minimal.

It can be clearly shown that the relationship between religiosity and well being is inverse, both between countries and, in the USA, between states. I have attached a chart which clearly illustrates this situation of the USA. In the chart the more green the better the situation for the state's citizens. I have a second such chart for the OECD countries available but cannot at the moment locate it.

I have no objection to genuine charitable efforts attracting taxation benefits but where money is attracted to an enterprise for the purpose of proselytizing then the contributions should neither carry nor attract any external benefits.

It is ridiculous that a minister of religion, catering only to the imagined spiritual health of a parishioner, has a tax advantage over a genuine health professional acting to protect the actual physical health of that parishioner.

In NSW at present, religious schools quite intent on ensuring that students accept religious dogma unthinkingly, have taxation advantages over the new ethics classes which are aiming to teach children to think clearly for themselves. In a just society that situation would be reversed.
John Turner

From: John Turner
Sent: Tuesday, 8 November 2011 1:49 PM
To: NFP Reform Consultation
Subject: Addendum

I made a submission earlier today. I now wish to add a second attachment and have revised my submission accordingly. I could not locate the second attachment at the time of the earlier submission.

Revised Submission

Religion is rightly losing its grip over human thought. The Scandinavian countries lead the OECD countries in most aspects of human well being and in those countries religious influence is minimal.

It can be clearly shown that the relationship between religiosity and well-being is inverse, between countries and, in the USA, between states. I have attached a chart which clearly illustrates this situation of the USA. In the chart the more green the better the situation for the state's citizens. While the second chart does not draw attention to the influence of religion in the comparison anyone familiar with the extent of religiosity in various countries will recognise the parallelism.

I have no objection to genuine charitable efforts attracting taxation benefits but where money is attracted to an enterprise for the purpose of proselytizing then the contributions should neither carry nor attract any external benefits.

It is ridiculous that a minister of religion, catering only to the imagined spiritual health of a parishioner, has a tax advantage over a genuine health professional acting to protect the actual physical health of that parishioner.

In NSW at present, religious schools quite intent on ensuring that students accept religious dogma unthinkingly, have taxation advantages over the new ethics classes which are aiming to teach children to think clearly for themselves. In a just society that situation would be reversed.

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Bottom of the Heap

Selected measures from the report "Social Justice in the OECD – How Do the Member States Compare?" Includes some categories of index ratings and some raw data.



Ratings are weighted and on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest).

Inter-generational justice rating Includes family and pension policies, environmental policies and assessment of political-economic being established for future generations.

	Overall social justice rating	Overall poverty prevention rating	Overall poverty rate	Child poverty rate	Senior citizen poverty rate	Income inequality (Gini Index) Higher numbers represent more income inequality	Pre-primary education Public expenditure on pre-primary education as a percentage of GDP	Health rating Inclusiveness, quality of service, and perceived health between highest/lowest incomes	
Iceland	8.73	9.07	6.4 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	0.301	0.75 %	8.53	7.18
Norway	8.31	8.87	7.8	5.5	8.0	0.250	0.42	7.30	8.53
Denmark	8.20	9.16	6.1	3.7	12.3	0.248	0.60	7.53	8.10
Sweden	8.18	8.43	8.4	7.0	9.9	0.259	0.67	7.87	9.00
Finland	8.06	8.53	8.0	5.2	13.0	0.259	0.36	7.17	8.01
Netherlands	7.72	8.88	7.2	9.6	1.7	0.294	0.38	7.08	6.82
Switzerland	7.44	7.39	9.3	9.4	17.6	0.303	0.19	8.03	7.55
Luxembourg	7.27	8.35	8.5	11.0	2.7	0.288	0.45	7.89	7.01
Canada	7.26	7.00	12.0	14.8	4.9	0.324	0.20	7.63	6.06
France	7.25	8.66	7.2	9.3	5.3	0.293	0.63	7.67	7.17
Czech Republic	7.17	9.18	5.5	8.8	3.6	0.256	0.42	5.84	5.97
New Zealand	7.14	6.27	11.0	12.2	23.5	0.330	0.45	8.18	6.98
Austria	7.13	8.49	7.9	7.2	9.9	0.261	0.45	6.87	7.11
Germany	7.03	8.12	8.9	8.3	10.3	0.295	0.40	6.63	6.87
Britain	6.79	6.92	11.0	13.2	12.2	0.345	0.28	6.77	6.95
Belgium	6.73	7.56	9.4	10.0	13.5	0.259	0.59	7.05	6.10
Hungary	6.41	9.14	6.4	7.2	4.7	0.272	0.69	5.08	6.04
Ireland	6.41	7.51	9.1	11.0	13.4	0.293	0.003	7.00	6.06
Italy	6.29	6.78	11.4	15.3	8.9	0.337	0.49	7.45	5.12
Poland	6.17	7.15	11.2	13.5	7.7	0.305	0.57	5.04	5.33
Australia	6.14	4.24	14.6	14.0	39.2	0.336	0.04	7.68	6.29
Japan	6.00	5.21	15.7	14.2	21.7	0.329	0.09	7.66	4.95
Portugal	5.97	5.77	12.0	18.7	15.2	0.353	0.37	5.66	5.60
Slovakia	5.96	8.33	7.2	10.7	7.2	0.257	0.37	5.04	5.24
South Korea	5.89	4.26	15.0	10.3	45.1	0.315	0.09	7.18	5.72
Spain	5.83	5.20	14.0	17.2	20.6	0.317	0.63	7.35	5.77
United States	5.70	3.85	17.3	21.6	22.2	0.378	0.33	6.23	5.95
Greece	5.37	6.24	10.8	13.2	22.7	0.307	0.11	6.61	3.47
Chile	5.20	3.30	18.4	24.0	22.8	0.494	0.59	5.65	5.92
Mexico	4.75	2.11	21.0	25.8	29.0	0.476	0.59	3.51	5.34
Turkey	4.19	4.26	17.0	23.5	13.7	0.409	0.02	3.79	5.05

Source: Bertelsmann Stiftung

state	religiousness	avg. iq	percentage of population impoverished	murder rate	occurrences of theft	divorce rate	generosity score (10 being least generous)	% who self identify as conservative	health and contentment ranking
Mississippi	85	94	21	7	3201	5	7	48	48
Alabama	82	96	16	9	3972	5	5	49	33
South Carolina	80	98	16	8	4272	3	5	46	26
Tennessee	79	98	16	6	4089	5	6	43	42
Arkansas	78	98	17	7	3953	6	7	43	46
Louisiana	78	95	18	14	4076		8	47	40
Georgia	76	98	15	8	3901		4	42	23
North Carolina	76	100	15	7	4087	4	5	40	34
Oklahoma	75	99	16	6	3526	6	5	47	43
Kentucky	74	99	17	5	2518	5	6	40	49
Texas	74	100	16	6	4121	3	7	43	21
West Virginia	71	99	17	4	2525	5	9	39	50
Kansas	70	103	11	4	3679	3	6	40	22
Utah	69	101	10	2	3500	4	1	47	1
Indiana	68	102	13	6	3397		6	39	45
Missouri	68	101	14	7	3738	4	6	39	44
North Dakota	68	104	12	2	1890	2	8	45	28
South Dakota	68	103	13	2	1652	3	7	44	39
Virginia	68	102	10	5	2466	4	4	37	15
Nebraska	67	102	11	4	3161	3	6	39	16
New Mexico	66	96	17	8	3726	5	7	42	17
Florida	65	98	13	7	4089	5	6	39	30
Maryland	65	100	8	10	3432	3	3	34	6
Ohio	65	102	13	5	3455	4	6	39	47
Pennsylvania	65	102	12	6	2361	2	6	38	32
Illinois	64	100	12	6	2936	3	5	35	31
Iowa	64	103	11	1	2616	3	6	41	27
Michigan	64	101	14	7	3066	3	5	37	41
Minnesota	64	104	10	2	3037		4	36	5
Arizona	61	97	15	7	4414	4	5	41	10
Delaware	61	100	10	4	3370	4	5	42	36
Idaho	61	101	13	3	2247	5	5	44	11
Wisconsin	61	103	11	3	2838	3	5	38	24
New Jersey	60	103	9	4	2213	3	4	32	25
Wyoming	58	102	10	3	2866	5	6	44	3
California	57	96	13	6	3033		5	33	9
Colorado	57	102	11	3	3006	4	4	37	4
Hawaii	57	96	9	2	4225		6	29	2
Montana	56	103	14	2	2765	4	6	41	12
New York	56	101	14	4	1979	3	4	32	35
Connecticut	55	103	9	3	2400	3	4	31	19
Nevada	54	97	11	8	3778	8	6	37	38
Oregon	53	101	14	2	3526	4	5	33	18
Rhode Island	53	100	12	2	2623	3	6	31	37
Washington	52	102	11	3	4031	4	5	33	7
Alaska	51	99	9	6	3380	6	7	40	20
Maine	48	103	13	2	2429	4	7	36	29
Massachusetts	48	104	10	3	2392	2	5	30	8
New Hampshire	46	104	8	1	1892	3	6	34	13
Vermont	42	104	10	2	2323	3	7	29	14

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/114022/State-States-Importance-Religion.aspx#2>

<http://www.top50states.com/average-iq-score.html>

<http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/saie/national.cgi?year=2008&ascii=>

http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/law_enforcement_courts_prisons/crimes_and_crime_rates.html

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0923080.html>

<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/researchandpublications/publications/7071.aspx>

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/122333/political-ideology-conservative-label-prevails-south.aspx#2>

http://www.ahiphiwire.org/WellBeing/Display.aspx?doc_code=RWBStateRanks