

Tax White Paper Task Force
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Comments on Tax Reform Discussion Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the initial discussion paper on Taxation Reform. Given recent pressures on Budget expenditure we believe a review of the Taxation System is warranted. It is also opportune to undertake this Review in conjunction with the Reform of the Federation process currently underway.

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) is the Catholic Church's peak national body for social services. For over 50 years, CSSA has assisted member agencies work towards a fairer, more inclusive society that reflects and supports the dignity, equality and participation of all people. Our 59 member agencies employ around 12,000 people, with 4,000 voluntary contributors to this work. The network provides community services to over one million Australians every year, with programmes valued at around \$600 million.

CSSA's vision is to ensure that Australia is a place where all people are treated with respect and have the opportunity to fully participate and contribute. CSSA's members work across the full range of social services for example with vulnerable children, families experiencing relationship challenges, people experiencing mental illness, people with disabilities, people who are homeless, Indigenous people, people who are seeking asylum and people who are refugees. These services have wide ranging social and economic benefits, from ensuring children are loved and safe and have every opportunity to thrive, to securing long-term housing, support and productive employment for people whose prospects had been severely limited.

Catholic social teaching holds that the most important measure of a healthy society is the manner in which the community directs resources to assist those most in need. Therefore CSSA urges the Government to adopt equity as its chief guiding principle, in order to ensure vulnerable families and individuals are not unfairly disadvantaged through reform of the taxation system.

The Taxation Review also provides a significant opportunity to ensure there is sufficient revenue to invest in communities, families and individuals, in order to strengthen social cohesion, participation and wellbeing, and increase economic productivity.

Over the coming months CSSA will be preparing our response to Taxation Reform in more detail and will provide a more comprehensive submission including Options when the Green Paper is released later this year.

We would welcome the opportunity to be involved in ongoing dialogue with the Government as it develops its ideas and have found the web site particularly useful.

Please contact Liz de Chastel, Senior Policy Officer on 02 6285 1366 if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcelle Mogg'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Marcelle' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Mogg'.

Marcelle Mogg
Chief Executive Officer
2nd July 2015