

Submission – Australia’s Future Tax System Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association

The Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Sport and Recreation Association of Queensland Inc (the Association), is a registered charity which has a mission to “enhance the lives of people with a disability through community engagement and education, sport and healthy activity”.

Although the Association receives financial support from the Queensland Government and also the Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission, the majority of the organisation’s funding is generated by the Association’s own fundraising efforts (88% in the last financial year from non-government sources).

As a Public Benevolent Institution under the Income Tax Assessment Act, the Association is exempt from income tax and fringe benefits tax and is also endorsed as a deductible gift recipient.

These tax concessions allow the Association to direct more funds that would otherwise be paid in income tax, toward vital programs and services to people with a disability in the community.

There is no doubt that if these concessions were removed, the level of services provided by the Association to people with a disability would be significantly reduced. It is therefore strongly recommended to the review panel that tax concessions currently available to organisations like the Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association should be maintained or increased, to allow the continued service delivery to people with a disability. With an aging population which is resulting in increases in a range of age related disabilities and the rise in obesity levels, the demand on services provided by the Association is steadily rising. People with a disability within the community are a particularly high risk group because of a lack of access to suitable sport and other healthy activity options. The Association is in the “front line” of service providers in attempting to service this high risk group and we therefore submit that the maintenance and increase of tax concessions has an important role to play in delivering these much needed services. Unless this is recognised, the long term health costs (hospitals and other medical costs), will far exceed the costs of providing tax concessions to this sector.

Should you wish to discuss any of the issues raised, please contact the writer by telephone (07 3253 3333) or email (raye@sportingwheelies.org.au).

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