



THE GEORGE INSTITUTE
for Global Health

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The Manager
Philanthropy and Exemptions Unit
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Via email: NFPReform@treasury.gov.au

Dear Madam

Re: Restating the "in Australia" special conditions for tax concession entities

We write on behalf of The George Institute for Global Health in reference to the current NFP reform process and the proposed changes to the legislation as it pertains to the "in Australia" requirements.

The George Institute for Global Health is headquartered in Sydney and is one of Australia's leading clinical and public health research institutes. Its focus is on utilising research to improving healthcare and health outcomes both in Australia and in resource-poor settings outside Australia. To achieve our goals, we are working with governments and other partners across the Asian region and in particular the world's largest emerging economies of China and India.

We wish to draw your attention to the potential of the legislation to limit the medical research community's efforts to contribute to solving some of the world's leading healthcare problems. Aspects of the proposed changes are open to interpretation and therefore ambiguity in their application. Requiring medical research institutes to undertake research only in Australia places restrictions on long established collaborative relationships that have been established by our leading researchers. The experts at The George are recognised for their work in the prevention of injury and chronic disease. They have extensive national and international collaborations and restricting the ability to co-fund research with overseas partners may well result in delays in bringing the best solutions forward.

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Creating legislation that threatens or, at the very least, limits the DGR status of medical research institutes could result in dire consequences for both the Australian and international communities. Community fundraising and individual tax deductible donations are critical to the lifeblood of health and medical research. These additional funds contribute towards meeting the significant shortfall between government grants and the cost of conducting research through to delivering the evidence required to impact policy. The removal of tax deductibility, whether perceived or real, will have a major impact on our ability to continue our work.

While there is potential to apply for exemption on a 'case by case' basis we believe further consideration is warranted for the sector. We support the call by our member association, AAMRI, that the process for review be held over until the National Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission is established to ensure comprehensive consultation can be undertaken.

Yours sincerely



Professor Stephen MacMahon
Principal Director



Professor Robyn Norton
Principal Director