

Submission to the "Consultation On The Definition Of A Charity"

1. What is the name of your charitable organisation? What are your contact details?

- Chinese Australian Services Society Co-Operative Limited (CASS)
- CASS Care Limited
44 – 50 Sixth Avenue
Campsie NSW 2194

2. What is the dominant (main) purpose/s of your charitable organisation?

The dominant purposes of our group of organizations are to provide services to the Chinese and general Australian communities that promote their social welfare and encourage their integration amongst the different cultures that have established themselves in this country. Services provided cover all age groups (from newborns to the elderly) and target all areas of Sydney, but especially the Inner West and Southern Sydney.

3. With reference to the preamble on 'workability' (above), do you have any concerns or issues that you wish to raise about the workability of the legislative definition of a charity proposed in the exposure draft Charities Bill 2003? [Please make your response under 3-4 main bullet points if possible]

It is clear that the definition of a charity is one of substance over form. It is relatively easy for an organization to provide a service, collect fees and claim that it is altruistic and for the benefit of the community, and thus take a share of the resources available. Thus, it is refreshing to see that the government has decided to enter this process of redefining a charity.

The proposed legislation provides the public and those in the "industry" with a clear definition of a charity which will ensure the recognition of those organisations who are genuinely providing public benefit through its services. Furthermore, the definition sets out to recognize the other activities that are not currently recognised by the taxation law as being in the field of charities – such as the advancement of culture, provision of childcare and the existence and work of self-help groups.

4. Would the Charities Bill 2003 impose any additional administrative burden on your charitable organisation? How? What additional compliance costs do you anticipate?

There will be some costs but we do not consider it to be excessive so long as the requirements are not complicated and tedious.

5. In your assessment, does the Charities Bill 2003 provide the flexibility to ensure the definition can adapt to the changing needs of society?

The expansion of the definition of a charity to include areas that are currently not recognised allows for some flexibility for organisations who focus on the promotion of the welfare of the general needy in our community.

6. If the public benefit test were further strengthened by requiring the dominant purpose of a charitable entity to also be altruistic, would this affect your organisation? If so, how?

It would not affect us as it is inclusive in our operation to be altruistic.