

Board of Taxation

Submission Board of Taxation

Dear Sirs,

Disability Justice Advocacy (DJA) is a Public Benevolent Institution set up in 1989 to provide advocacy to people with a disability associated with high support needs. We are funded by the Commonwealth to provide 70% individual advocacy and 30% systemic advocacy. The people DJA supports are some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

Our role involves

- Assisting and supporting people to find appropriate accommodation
- Assisting and supporting people to obtain services from the community
- Dealing with abuse and neglect of vulnerable people
- Putting their names on waiting lists
- Assisting people to get appropriate equipment for their needs
- Mediating with them, supporting the people with disabilities at meetings
- Advocating systemically to improve the lives of our constituents, this includes advocating for policy change.

We are extremely concerned about the proposed changes to the Charities legislation.

1. Disability Justice Advocacy believes the Charities Bill is outdated and needs to be modernised.
2. Changes to the legislation will not affect the amount of advocacy work we do. The same amount of needy people who need advocacy support. However, we will have fewer resources to provide this support.
3. The exclusion of advocacy as a primary activity of charities ignores the current activities of a range of organisations in raising awareness of, and assisting with, the development of public policy.

4. Implementation of this Bill, will result in the exclusion of organisations that advocate for their constituency and are currently defined as charitable or have as a primary function, development of responsive public policy and support for a range of social service or environment organisations (peak organisations).
5. The draft Charities Bill 2003 does not follow the recommendations of the Charities Definition Inquiry.
6. We endorse and support all the submission of ACOSS.

Yours faithfully

Gillian Meldrum
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