

GUIDE DOGS NSW/ACT
SUBMISSION TO
THE BOARD OF TAXATION
DEFINITION OF A CHARITY

30 September 2003

We provide herewith information that will help the Board frame its recommendations to the Government in the order suggested in Page 2 of the Guideline Notes.

1. We are:-

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT
2-4 Thomas Street
Chatswood NSW 2059
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Fax 9412 9399

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Fax 9412 9399
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2. Guide Dogs NSW/ACT exists to enhance the quality of life of people who are blind or vision impaired, by assisting in their achievement of independence through access and mobility.

We provide

- assessment and training in Orientation and Mobility to people who are blind or have vision impairment;
- aids including Guide Dogs, mobility canes and electronic mobility aids;
- children's services
- low vision assessment and training, particularly to the elderly;
- compensatory training to people who have neurological vision impairment;
- PAT (Pets As Therapy) Dogs, to people who are socially disadvantaged due to disability, age or ill health; and
- Advocacy and community education on the needs and rights of people who have vision impairment.

We deliver our services:

- In the home, domicile and neighbourhood of our clients;
- To, from and at our client's place of employment;
- At schools, universities, and other educational institutions;
- From motels in Sydney and in other regional centres;
- In the Low Vision Clinic at Chatswood, NSW;

- At the Guide Dogs Centre at Glossodia; and
- Where appropriate to meet with our client requirements.

Our Policy:

All our services are delivered free of charge to our clients.

3.
 - In January 2001 we made a submission to the Inquiry Into The Definition of Charities and Related Organisations in the name of Guide Dog Association of New South Wales and ACT.
 - We believe the draft legislation – Charities Bill 2003 is worthy of support.
4. Guide Dogs NSW/ACT is currently endorsed with the Australian Taxation Office as an Income Tax Exempt Charity.

We believe that we will be entitled to such endorsement on the basis of the Charities Bill 2003.

5. Not applicable
6. We do not believe that the Charities Bill 2003 will impose any additional administrative burden on us.

We do not anticipate any additional compliance costs.

7. We believe the Charities Bill 2003 will provide sufficient flexibility to ensure the definition can adapt to the changing needs of society.
8. Should it be required that the dominant purpose of the charitable entity also be altruistic then we believe that this would enhance our organisation.

Our organisation raises all its funds from the people of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. We do not receive any State or Federal Government funding. All our services are delivered free of charge to our clients. Our organisation is truly altruistic and we believe this proposed requirement would enhance the definition of the public benefit test.

J P Finucane
Chief Executive Officer
Guide Dogs NSW/ACT
30 September 2003

