

Bender, Michelle

From: Antoinette le Marchant [antoinette.le.marchant@ku.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2003 1:09 PM
To: charitydefinition@taxboard.gov.au
Subject: Inquiry response

Thank you to the opportunity to respond to your paper and draft bill.

I commend your attempts to put clarity and certainty into the concept of charities and public benevolent institutions.

Like many other organisations, however, I am concerned about the attempt to fetter not for profit organisations from speaking out on social issues. I understand that the not for profit sector receives monies from various levels of government and accepts these principally in return for the delivery of services. It is not unexpected therefore that the funding body (government) does not take well to being criticised for various policies. Nevertheless, I feel we will be a poorer society if organisations do not continue to have an advocacy role independent of government.

I agree with ACOSS' proposal that government should "recognise that charities may engage in non-partisan advocacy that is an integral part of a strategy to promote an

underlying dominant charitable purpose, such as relieving poverty or protecting the environment.
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I also agree with ACOSS that PBIs need to be given greater attention in the legislation and that a Charities COMmission be appointed as watchdog to ensure the probity and integrity of the sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Antoinette le Marchant
Chief Executive Officer
KU Children's Services
129 York St Sydney NSW
Box Q132, QVB Post Office NSW 1230
ph +61 2 9268 3901
fax +61 2 9264 7341
mobile 0408 405 191
antoinette.le.marchant@ku.com.au
visit us on the world wide web at
www.ku.com.au

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