



13 March 2020

The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

COVID-19 Economic Response Plan
Stimulus Package for the Non-Profit Sector

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to request your support for the Non-Profit Sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like all Australians, we are concerned about the escalating impacts of COVID-19 on the community. We will do everything in our power to minimise any slow-down, mindful that many vulnerable families will need us now more than ever.

As you know, the Non-Profit Sector contributes about \$129 billion to the economy each year, directly employing 840,500 full time paid workers, of whom over 80 per cent are women.

An Economic Response Plan could comprise the following initiatives:

1. An **NFP Employment Protection Provision** to provide non-profit employers with a percentage-based or lump sum payment to offset salary costs and safeguard jobs.
2. A **Corporate Giving Tax Offset** for companies who donate to registered charities, with donation and offset thresholds to incentivise contributions from small, medium, and large enterprises.
3. A temporary **Bonus Charity Tax Deduction** incentive for individual taxpayers, providing a 150 per cent tax deduction on donations before June 30, 2020. Different donation values and deduction thresholds should be set to encourage higher-value donations from those in higher income brackets.
4. A **Digital Innovation Rebate Scheme** to fund the costs of new digital and web-based innovations designed to provide community services and programs online or otherwise deliver community benefit using digital means.
5. An **NFP Futures Fund** managed by an independent agency of the Australian Government, offering registered charities the opportunity to invest any funding reserves in a publicly-managed fund for a slightly higher rate of return than sharemarket dividends and bank deposits.
6. A **Research Investment Offset** for registered charities who fund Australian-based clinical or social research for broad public benefit. If there was ever a reminder of the important role that research plays in our lives, this is it.

I would welcome the Commonwealth Government's urgent support for this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jeff Dunn AO
Chief Executive Officer
Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia