

Senator Xenophon is certainly passionate about his anti-pokie stance, his concern for the Murray - Darling Basin and his opposition to the practices of the Church of Scientology. On all of these issues I thoroughly agree with him.

My concern is regarding his private Senator's Bill, labelled the Tax Laws Amendment (Public Benefit Test) Bill 2010.

If his aim is to target the Church of Scientology and other dubious groups I can understand his purpose with this Bill.

The introduction of this Bill though would have a detrimental effect on many worthwhile and community focused organizations, both churches and charity groups.

My understanding is that the Tax Dept. already has satisfactory assessment processes in place to monitor tax exemption status.

This Bill would create an additional burden for groups that are already understaffed for the roles they undertake, as they rely heavily on support from volunteers for their unpaid and overstretched services to the community.

Senator Xenophon may be wiser to attempt to overturn the High Court decision in 1983 that ruled that the Church of Scientology was actually a religion, rather than promote legislation that would be so detrimental to the many publicly beneficial groups currently serving our communities.

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