



Tuesday, 13 January 2009

Manager  
Philanthropy & Exemptions Unit  
Personal & Retirement Income Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Improving the Integrity of Private Prescribed Funds**

Children's Cancer Institute Australia for Medical Research (CCIA) is the only independent medical research institute in the country devoted to research into the causes, prevention, better treatments and cure of childhood cancer. Throughout our existence our vision has remained unchanged, to save the lives of all children with cancer and eliminate their suffering.

Our mission is to be a leader in preventing cancer, to find new ways of curing cancer in children through world-class research, to ensure the best possible quality of life for these children and their families, to share the vision with others and to increase awareness, participation and funding.

CCIA appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission on the Treasury discussion paper *'Improving the Integrity of Private Prescribed Funds (PPFs)'* and supports the Government's review of the PPF guidelines to ensure greater transparency and public accountability across the sector.

However, as a beneficiary of a number of PPFs, we have concerns over some of the proposals raised in the discussion paper.

In recent years the Institute has been increasingly successful in attracting external funding from peer-reviewed, industry and government sources however the greatly enhanced research capacity achievable as a result of these funds paradoxically means that we rely even more heavily on community support.

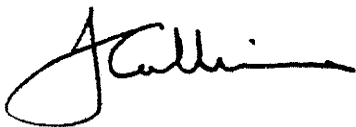
As our research effort expands to allow greater inroads into the problem of childhood cancer, contributions from the community and corporate sector are increasingly important in terms of sustaining and broadening our enhanced research productivity. For every dollar of research funding we secure, we require one additional community dollar to actually deliver that research, and this ratio is rising.

Due to the nature of medical research, our community partnerships will always have a long-term focus and will rely on the certainty of future funding over several years. As such, we would not like to see any change to the operations of PPFs that would jeopardise their long term viability. We are concerned that a distribution rate of 15 per cent each year would erode PPF funds within a short timeframe, therefore increasing our reliance on finite peer-reviewed and government funding, which would threaten the outcomes of our research. We also feel that this proposed change to the distribution rate would discourage individuals, families or businesses from establishing new PPFs.

Another concern is the proposal to limit the number of donors to a PPF. PPFs set up through businesses often encourage their staff to make charitable donations to their company fund through Work Place Giving Programs. This is an effective way of creating a culture of philanthropy both in and out of the work place. If the number of donors was capped it would not only effect the level of contributions the PPF receives and subsequently distributes, but would also cease to grow the culture of philanthropy across the business as a whole.

CCIA supports any initiative that protects the integrity of the sector and would be happy to offer further comment if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Collins', with a stylized, cursive script.

**JOE COLLINS**

Executive Chairman

Children's Cancer Institute Australia for Medical Research