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Baptist Care (SA) Inc

Human Service Inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins Street East
Melbourne Vic 3800

25.07.2016

To Whom it May Concern,

Baptist Care (SA) Inc. employs more than 700 people and has a history of service provision spanning 103 years. We provide a range of human services, and have previously operated residential age care facilities and employment services.

This submission is particularly focused on the provision of "human service" related to the areas of mental health (counselling), the provision of social support in accommodation, disability and substance abuse programs.

It is fair to suggest that there is a perception that the community sector is largely devoid of competition, however, the reality is that operates in a highly competitive environment. First, there is competitive tendering and short term contracts as with the business sector. Second, there are tight margins in the community sector, which means that the sector is dependent on additional sources of income to survive in the market. The interplay of these factors means that there is often cross subsidising of services in order to survive.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important policy issue.

We welcome any inquiries from the Productivity Commission in relation to our response.

Regards,

Paul K Scully
Chief Executive Officer
25 July 2016.