

**SUBMISSION ON DRAFT PAPER RELEASED ON REVIEW OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATING SYSTEM REVIEW OF RATE
EXEMPTIONS**

14 October 2016

Background

This submission is written on behalf of the various aged care facilities, retirement villages owned by Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution (ACN 115 117 274) (*RFBI*), a company limited by guarantee and the many residents residing in each.

History

The Objects of RFBI

Clause 3(b) of the Constitution of RFBI provides as follows:

"3. The objects for which the Company is established are:

...

- (b) to provide relief for those suffering poverty, sickness, distress, misfortune, destitution or helplessness in the form of weekly or other periodic payments, food or shelter in the form of aged care facilities or other assistance without limitation as may from time to time be deemed expedient for aged, distressed or infirm persons and those in necessitous circumstances without regard to race, colour or religion."

The Activities of RFBI

Since its formation in 1880, the RFBI has conducted the activities of a charity and a public benevolent institution.

In our submission, we contend that the activities conducted by RFBI have continued to be both "charitable" and "benevolent" throughout our long existence in that we provide assistance to the aged of which a large proportion are financially disadvantaged.

As a Charity, we locate our services in communities where the need is great and in many cases where the for-profit providers do not have a presence as they are not able to generate an appropriate return on their investments. The relevance of this statement is that as a Charity we are actually adding value to the

communities where we exist. We create employment, both direct and indirect. That is we directly employ staff as carers, maintenance, hospitality, administration to mention a few. We also create employment in the communities by purchasing food, fuel, trades work etc. By RFBI being located in these communities we add real value that is translated into people staying local which then translates to demand for other services which eventually means more houses and more income for the Councils involved. Charitable providers of services do more than simply provide a service, they help create and maintain a community – this must be considered when determining whether to penalise these types of organisations.

Conclusion

Act.

Yours sincerely,