



Question Taken on Notice – NSW Labor – 18 November 2019 – Inquiry into the Administration of the 2019 NSW State Election

Question #1:

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN: Could I move then to section 5.1 and talk about your comments about the disclosure system? You note that as of 18 July 2018 the Act reduced the period of disclosure of donations to 28 days twice annually. My question is: Do you feel that that is an adequate amount of time? There have been some concerns raised by a number of stakeholders that that may be too short, particularly when you consider the time of year when disclosures are held—often over holiday periods and so forth. Do you have any comments about that?

Mr LENNON: Yes, we do. We also agree that that is too short and difficult, particularly for the disclosure at the end of December where it means you have got people having to work through January to meet the time line. Our view is it is too short and should be extended.

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN: Do you have a view about how long that should be extended?

Answer:

In answer to question from Mr Franklin re disclosure of donations. The ALP would support extending the period of disclosure to 56 days.

Question #2:

The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK: Talking about public funding which is something you would have to deal with on a day-to-day basis I suppose, should all administrative funding be provided in advance?

Answer:

In answer to question from Mr Borsak re advance payment of administrative funding. The ALP would support all administrative funding being paid in advance.

Question #3:

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN: I wanted to talk about the exception to aggregation for small donations at fundraising events, which is currently set at \$50. Obviously there is enormous and onerous bureaucratic impost on political parties for noting and recognising, providing all of the official receipts, for very small functions which is why that exception was made for \$50 at these events. My question is; as has been suggested by evidence we have received,

as the cash limit has now been reduced to \$100 do you think it would be appropriate to increase the exception limit from \$50 to \$100 in line with the cash limit?

Answer:

In answer to the question from Mr Franklin re the increase of the exception limit from \$ 50 to \$ 100. The ALP does not support this proposal at this stage.