

**Submission  
No 2**

**INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FUNDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ELECTION CAMPAIGNS**

**Organisation:**

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## Submission to Inquiry into Public Funding of Local Government Elections

As an elected independent in local government I would like to make the following comments for consideration:

There is a complexity associated with the need for candidates to have trained agents to handle all finances relating to an election even if the monies used are from the candidates own personal finances. If local government is to be considered 'grass roots' then the system in place should be simple to encourage as many diverse candidates as possible. This complexity is a burden on individual, independent, self financing candidates.

Independent candidates usually do not have the support base or the ability to raise donations as those in political parties and hence are not on a level playing field.

Any system of public funding should be based on the number of electors and it needs to consider the area these electors are spread over. In a suburban area it is easy to door knock or letterbox drop but in regional and country areas there is the need to spend more on message delivery.

A system of public funding and spending limit varied, according to the area covered, number of electors and the type of election (eg: mayoral election) would encourage a more diverse range of community representatives to stand for election.

The amount of spend should be limited otherwise it makes it difficult for some members of the community to be competitive with either more financially well off candidates or those financed by parties. Financial status should not be an advantage or disadvantage to being elected to local government.

The public funding should cover the minimum 'no frills' campaign. That may include one mail out to electors, how to votes and a reasonable number of corflutes.

There should still be a nomination fee although this should not be too onerous. It needs to be high enough to weed out the frivolous but not to discourage the genuine. Likewise and for the same reason, there should be eligibility threshold of votes gained to be entitled to public funding.

Thank you for allowing a submission.

Judy Hannan