

**Submission
No 1**

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

Organisation: Australia First Party (NSW) Inc.

Name: Dr James Saleam

Position: Registered Officer

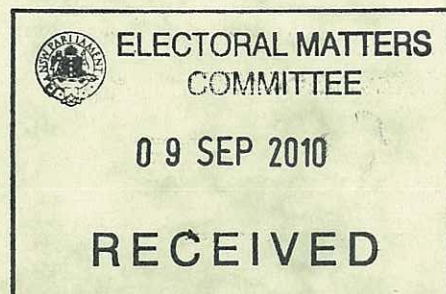
Date Received: 9/09/2010

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September 7 2010

The Chair
Joint Standing Committee On Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney 2000.



Public funding of local government election campaigns

I offer this submission on the behalf of our party, one of the parties registered with the New South Wales Electoral Commission to contest Local Government elections.

We favour the public funding of local government elections in New South Wales. A public funding model should above all - be simple to administer.

If the level of funding is moderate it could not be reasonably expected to encourage frivolous candidates who may opt to become candidates just to receive public funding payments. A reasonable rate may be half that which is paid by the State of New South Wales for elections to the Parliament.

The funding should relate to first preference votes where a minimum of four percent of the formal vote is won. That is in line with Federal and State requirements and is considered reasonable by the community. It could be paid to a maximum of fifty percent of the formal vote.

Candidates and registered parties have burdens of reporting of expenditure to qualify for State funding. It may be far better for the present purpose to simply

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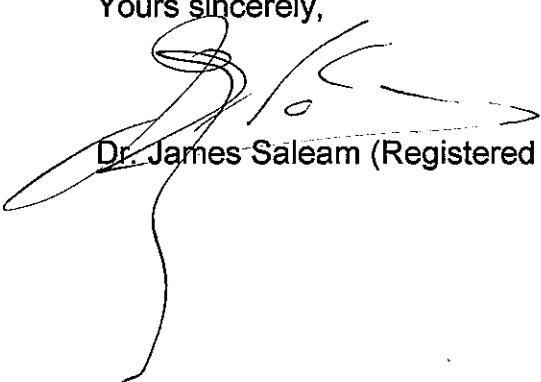
AUSTRALIA FIRST PARTY

pay the money to the candidate or the party once the 4% threshold is crossed. That eliminates parts of the audit and other processes with considerable savings of time and money. If a candidate or a party did 'profit' from the election, it would hardly be excessive and that circumstance (if it occasionally occurred) would be more than balanced by those general savings achieved by all.

A limit on expenditure could be imposed upon Council campaigns (we offer no figure) and selected audits could be undertaken by the Public Funding Authority on its own initiative or upon received information to enforce conformity. That would be something which the community would accept as fair and proper.

Public funding could be extended such that a small nominal payment be made annually to registered parties to assist with meeting the costs of their reporting obligations. These obligations currently fall unequally upon the smaller groups.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. James Saleam (Registered Officer)