


**Submission
No 27**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2019 NSW STATE ELECTION

Name: Mr Wesley Hindmarsh

Date Received: 13 November 2019



29TH October,2019

The Honorable,

Gareth Ward MP



Dear Sir,

After having a Court experience as an Auditor for a small political party ,the action being bought to bear by the Electoral Commission, I would like to take this opportunity to provide some practical pointers which may help to avoid a repeat event occurring to other parties which could conceivably save the public purse a significant sum of money.

In this instance the action involved the completion of an EF696, Declaration of Expenditure for Policy Development Purposes containing financial information drawn from transactions processed in a **calendar** year then signed off by Party Officials and the auditor. Then the Financial Accounts, having an end date of **30th June** each year are prepared then signed off by party officials and the Auditor and lodged with the Electoral Commission.

Refinement number one which would seem to be more logical and efficient to draw the information from one preparation to insert into the EF696, namely the financial accounts prepared for the end of Financial Year as this Statement marks the conclusion of annual activities and thus a document is prepared which has been sanctioned by the party members in general meeting. It is far more efficient to draw the information for an EF696 from one preparation only not documents spanning two years.

The EF696 prepared on a calendar year basis is lodged with receipts or invoices substantiating the expenditure.

Refinement number two, if the Annual Financial Accounts were adopted as the source of information for the claim, would be to accompany the application with relevant expenditure prints from the Parties General Ledger detailing transactions required in the EF696 Part A to Part H of the claim form. Receipts and invoices should then accompany the general ledger report in the lodgement to the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission is then far better positioned to review the Parties claim and therefore determine the rebate payable to the Party.

I am convinced if these changes were made in the treatment of these claims then a more efficient environment would prevail and it would introduce more certainty for both the Party and the Electoral Commission and streamline the processing for both.

Yours sincerely



Wesley Hindmarsh CA.