



15 November 2007

**Legislative Council**

## **INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING**

The Select Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding has commenced its public consultation by publishing a discussion paper. The discussion paper aims to encourage debate on the role of electoral funding and the disclosure of donations in both State and local government elections.

The discussion paper identifies possible areas for reform, including:

- matters relating to the Election Funding Authority
- public funding – adequacy, fairness of distribution and eligibility
- political donations – amounts, sources and disclosure
- election expenditure – amounts and disclosure.

The Committee is also inviting written submissions which are due by Friday 15 February 2008. “We are keen to hear as many views as possible from the community and stakeholders on this important issue,” said Revd Fred Nile, Committee Chairman.

“After the close of submissions the Committee will hold several public hearings in March next year, with the final report to be tabled by the end of June 2008.”

Revd Nile continued, “The Committee will scrutinise the impact of donations on the democratic process. We will also examine the possible effect of banning all donations from corporations, developers, unions and organisations. Further, in regards to the funding of campaigns, we will investigate how to best regulate campaign finance to ensure that the electoral funding process is open, fair and accountable.”

Information about the Inquiry, including how to make a submission and copies of the discussion paper and terms of reference, are available from the:

- Committee’s website [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/partyfunding](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/partyfunding)
- Committee secretariat, tel (02) 9230 3509, or email [fundinginquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fundinginquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

**For further comment please contact Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC,  
Chairman, ph. 9230 2978**