

30 January 2012

Cathryn Cummings  
Principal Council Officer  
Legislative Council  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000



Dear Ms Cummings

**Inquiry into the Provisions of the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Bill 2011**

Thank you for your letter of 19 January 2012 together with the uncorrected transcript of my evidence before the Inquiry from 18 January 2012. Please find attached an annotated copy of the transcript with the corrections that I seek. The corrections are on pages 23, 25 and 31.

Clarification of evidence

I take this opportunity to clarify my evidence in a couple of important areas.

Firstly on page 25 in answers to questions from Dr John Kaye about the impact of affiliation fees paid from organisations to political parties; it is apparent that Dr Kaye and perhaps the Act sees affiliation fees and donations as interchangeable whereas I see distinct and important differences between them. An affiliation fee is the equivalent of a membership fee paid by an individual. It brings with it certain rights and responsibilities including the opportunity to participate in the formal decision making processes of the party to the extent that the party rules permit. A donation does not and should not lead to similar rights and involvement.

It follows that it is my view that the Act should treat membership fees and affiliation fees differently to the way donations are treated.

Secondly on page 27 in answers to further questions from Dr Kaye, I was invited to comment on the assertion that organisational membership gave the ALP an unfair advantage over the Liberal / National Party coalition by virtue of the affiliation fees paid by unions. Consistent with the clarification offered above, I see organisational membership (affiliation) as parallel to individual membership. It follows that if the aim of the Act was to ensure equality of financial capacity between the competing parties then this can only be achieved through a process of capping party membership numbers and ensuring that all members pay the same fees. This is clearly not in the public interest and may well be unconstitutional.

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**FINANCE SECTOR UNION OF AUSTRALIA NSW Branch**

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*All correspondence must be addressed to the Branch Secretary*

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As mentioned in my evidence on 18 January, I see that a variety of factors will decide whether one side of politics has an advantage over others. Party structure is one small factor that might be considered but is often less important than other factors such as media bias, technological and organisational expertise and individual campaigning skills. The fact that Government has changed hands five times in the past fifty years in NSW and Federally with different parties simultaneously in power in the respective jurisdictions for most of that time indicates that no one side of politics has a lasting or unfair advantage based on organisational structure.

Question on notice

On page 25 Dr Kaye asked: *Are you aware of what your union did during the 2011 election?*

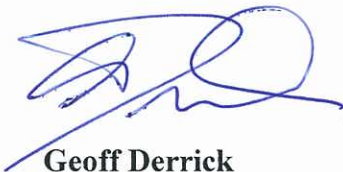
I took that question on notice and now provide the following response;

The FSU published an election related article in our newsletter *FSU Bites* in both February and March 2011. The newsletter is emailed to members with one hard copy sent to each workplace delegate and each member who has requested a hard copy rather than an electronic copy. I attach copies of both articles.

The FSU also made its office and phones available for volunteers who undertook outbound calling at selected times. Although a number of FSU employees and officials were among these volunteers, no FSU staff did election related work in paid time.

Please let me know if you require anything further in relation to any of the matters covered in this letter.

Yours faithfully



**Geoff Derrick**  
Secretary

(encl.)



# 2011 at full speed

It is an honour to be filling in for Geoff Derrick while he is away for the next few months. Geoff has been awarded a scholarship to attend the very prestigious Harvard Trade Union program in Boston, where he will learn strategies and ideas for making our union more united, more focused and more effective.

I spent 11 years working in the NSW/ACT branch of the FSU before I moved to the position of National Director in 2008.

We've started the year at full speed, with new agreements in NAB and ANZ, as well as campaigns in all other parts of the industry. This month in FSUBites you'll read about how Suncorp is up to its old trick of trying to undercut the rights of former GIO employees, and the fantastic story of workers in Westpac who are taking a stand against unfair targets.

I never cease to be humbled by the sight of workers who are willing to stand up for what they believe in. Our union is full of women and men who are willing to give up their time, take risks and back each other up in the name of doing what they believe is right – for them, for their friends and co-workers, and often, for their kids and the generation that will come after us. It is a privilege to work with such people. Standing up for what you believe in is what being in the union is all about: a very simple, but incredibly powerful idea.

This month we also pose you a very big question: what do the candidates at the next state election need to do to win your vote? We'll put your questions to each of the major political parties and publish them in next month's edition.

I hope you're having a good year so far, and that together we can create the kind of workplaces we want, the kind of industry we want, and the kind of world we want.

## FSU Active:

For the period 1 Jan - 31 January 2011

\$418,976 recovered on behalf of FSU members

2124 calls to the NSW Office

187 new cases opened on behalf of members

145 cases resolved for FSU members

187 workplace visits by Organisers

## FSU Contact Details

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## NSW/ACT Executive

The NSW/ACT Executive is made up of finance industry workers and is the governing body of FSU in NSW & the ACT.



ANZ Member Council & NSW/ACT President  
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FSU NSW/ACT Branch Secretary  
**Geoff Derrick**  
Ph. 1300 366 378

## Earn my vote!

Thank you to all FSU members who sent us their questions to forward to our NSW political leaders in response to our article in the February edition of *FSUBites*. We were unable to publish them all however we have published a selection of questions about the most popular topics we received, and extracts from the responses from each political party at the time of publishing. The full responses from the party are available on the NSW/ACT page of the FSU Website at [www.fsunion.org.au](http://www.fsunion.org.au)

### Deb's Question

**Deb Gallagher, St George Bank**



I would like to ask what policies the parties have for the inclusion of children with a disability or special needs into mainstream education. I would also like to know what funding they are committing to in relation to this matter and if they will set up a Centralised Equity Services System.

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**Verity Firth  
NSW Minister for Education and Training**

We know that more and more parents are choosing to send their child to their local school. And we have responded by providing extra support to schools – including funding for additional teacher time, professional training for teachers, additional support from school learning support officers, or building modifications where they are needed.

The NSW Labor Government has continued to explore ways this support can be improved and if elected we will continue to do so.



**John Kaye  
Greens Education and Training spokesperson**

No response at the time of publishing



**Adrian Piccoli  
Shadow Minister for Education**

The NSW Liberals & Nationals continue to support the inclusion of children with special needs into mainstream education. We have committed an extra \$250 million in our Numeracy and Literacy Action Plan targeted at K-2. Whilst not dealing specifically with children with more profound disabilities

we believe this policy will help more students achieve in literacy and numeracy.

### Sharlene's Question

**Sharlene Jamieson - ME Bank**



"What are the plans for infrastructure for South West Sydney in terms of better public transport and easing traffic congestion".



**Gladys Berejiklian  
Shadow Minister for Transport**

No response at the time of publishing



**John Robertson  
NSW Minister for Transport**

The \$2.1 billion South West Rail Link is under construction right now and supports 200 jobs every day.

It will deliver 12 trains per hour in the peak, servicing around 110,000 homes in the South West Growth Centre and the new Leppington Town Centre.

We have already completed the widening of the F5 between Brooks Road and Camden Valley Way in 2008, and between Brooks Road and Raby Road late last year.



**Cate Faehrmann  
Greens Transport spokesperson**

The Greens are calling for a significant redirection of government funding to public transport solutions. The Greens also want to see a comprehensive plan adopted for southwest Sydney residents to be able to access the public transport network within easy distance of their homes.

### Perihan's Question

**Perihan Meric - NAB**



**My Question:**

How will your policies ensure that public hospitals will have the experienced doctors and nurses that we need to provide quality health services to the people of NSW.



**Carmel Tebbutt  
NSW Minister for Health**

NSW's emergency departments are performing better than any other State's - despite a 3% increase in people attending our emergency departments in the past 12 months. More elective surgery is being performed in our hospitals than ever before with a significant reduction in elective surgery waiting lists.

Since 2005 we have increased the medical workforce by 26% and increased our nursing Workforce by 10.8%



**John Kaye  
Greens Health spokesperson**

Hospitals like all public services work because of the skilled and dedicated workforce.

Maintaining and protecting their conditions is essential not only to stemming the flow of nurses and doctors who leave the public health system but also to increase patient safety.



**Jillian Skinner  
Shadow Minister for Health**

No response at the time of publishing

We will also work to have funding allocated to ensure that the number of hospital beds and health professionals reflects the needs of populations served by each public hospital.