

**Submission
No 18**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

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I have for some time now been very concerned where our country is headed re Political Donations.

You only have to ask one question: Why do people donate to political parties? Now look at where such donations come from. Most of them come from people/groups who want to influence an outcome to their own advantage – in other words politicians owe the donors favours.

If this continues democracy will flounder and it's up to our generation to correct this.

All political candidates should have the same opportunity to promote their cause. I would be happy to give government funding to allow all candidates in a seat to submit their platform and this platform is to be compiled and then delivered to each constituent. There on a piece of paper one can look at all the candidates for their area and see what each person is proposing on various questions. It would be fair and equitable and result in an informed electorate. All media coverage would have to be based on the same principle – an independent candidate would get the same coverage as a candidate from a major party. The media would always have to give equal billing to each candidate at government cost. Major parties should not be able to buy media coverage and incumbent governments should be banned from political advertisements such as the former federal governments blitz on “Work choices”. The millions wasted on this advertising could have been used to present a fair and equal Platform Appraisal document as referred to earlier in this paragraph.

I hope this review results in a fairer and more practical approach to political donations.

Di Cook