

**Submission
No 164**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Name: Mr Oscar Cahill

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TO: Select Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding

Oscar Cahill

Select Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding
Parliament House
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February 29, 2008

Dear Committee,

Submission for Electoral and Political Party Funding Committee

I am writing to raise concern over the current state of Electoral and Political Party Funding. I find it unbelievable that Australia lags so far behind other countries when it comes to political donations, particular donations from the business end of town, whether that be industrial, development or any other business.

There are many main issues:

1. The purpose for which donations are given
2. Public perception
3. Ease of which blanket wholesale corruption is effectively LEGAL
4. Politicians are reported to only give audience to donators
5. Policy makers for the public are financed by business and vested interest groups
6. The little people are stranded and held to ransom by a very small minority
7. Corruption at the highest level of government. (See recent reports with Frank Sartor , despite all recommendations by various committees, boards, airports, etc, rezoning un-inhabitable land to residential. The developers in this case stand to gain over \$120,000,000. These very same developers being heavy donators and known to the government figures!!!!!! Very nice Mr Sartor. And you say you are not corrupt.
8. Why are only large sums reported. All donations should be made public.

Even if proposals that have been reported in todays news papers, regarding sweeping reforms, are put in place, it does little. It does NOT get to the core of the problem. What does it matter who the cheque is made out to. Does Mr Emma think that we are all completely stupid? It still allows wholesale bribery and corruption of what is put forward as a democratic system.

While the business end of town make key decisions behind closed doors and luncheons with our decision makers, the poor public can only watch from a distance at a system that is fundamentally rotten to the core by design.

ALL donations from the business sector, including of course developers with shady links to policy and decision makers, MUST be stopped and made illegal in ALL forms.

In a democracy, we are all equal but Sartor demonstrates daily that a few close to the major parties are clearly more equal than others.

I do not give away money to parties or promise them seats on boards once they retire! Why on earth would a profit driven person/business do likewise were it not for the blindingly obvious expectation that favours would come their way some time in the future.

Sincerely,

Oscar Cahill