

**Submission
No 51**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

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I wish to make the following submission relating to the above inquiry.

1. **Democracy.** The current donations system, even if not corrupt, cannot meet the criteria of ensuring that voters do not perceive it as corrupt. When parties are given access to ministers dependant upon political contributions the public sees these contributions as bribes. Even Developer's are embarrassed by the system and have called for all political contributions to end : surely a clear inditement of a failed system. We (Australia) make damming comments about corrupt systems in overseas democracies, but our political donations system only serves to undermine democracy.
2. **Election Funding.** To offset the loss of private/company donations a realistic level of public funding should be made available to all "bona -fide" political parties. This should be available in advance on a per capita vote basis and subsequently amended when all votes are counted.
3. **Enforcement Measures.** Effective measures need to be introduced to ensure funding regulations are closely monitored and adhered to.

Democracy is a frail institution which needs continual support. It is currently badly served by the present system of Political Party Funding. Adoption of a better, less corrupt system, should be seen as a priority.

Yours sincerely
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