

**Submission  
No 27**

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

**Organisation:**

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Dear Sirs,

We should like to make the following points regarding the very concerning way that political donations are corrupting democracy in New South Wales.

There have been many newspaper reports demonstrating that these political donations allow Members of Parliament and political parties to be "bought" by those with enough money, to do what donors want. It is clear that business and other donor entities expect and receive a large financial return on any donations they make to political parties or politicians.

Donor-funded advertising and public relations also corrupts the election process by ensuring the election of those who can advertise best, rather than those who can govern best. The result is the present totally hopeless government services in areas such as hospitals, mental health, public transport, child protection, town planning, schools, hotels and gambling etc.

Ministers paid by the public to perform their duties should not double dip by being paid for meetings or dinners with certain privileged individuals. Such meetings only ensure that there are benefits for the rich and not for others. Furthermore, politicians in the pay of private interests cannot be trusted by the people.

### **CONTROL ON DONATIONS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR DURING ELECTIONS**

A donations cap per individual should be established (eg \$1000 per party per annum)  
Donations from corporations, trade unions, associates and other organizations, from trust funds and from anyone outside New South Wales should also be strictly limited  
Transfers within parties from outside NSW should be prohibited

There should be a limit on what a party can spend during an election

To take the place of reduced private donations public funding of elections should be increased. This could take the form of:

- Assistance in the form of free mailings
- Free use of public rooms during an election period
- Free airtime for political broadcasts

Public funding should be available on an equitable basis to **all** contestants of an election.

Timely public disclosure of donations received and election expenditure should be mandatory so that the media and the public can be rapidly informed of trends and of any transgressions. Parties should be obligated to place on a website details of monthly electoral income and expenditure in similar form to the final election reporting currently required to the NSW Electoral Funding Authority.

Effective sanctions for breaking electoral funding regulations should be established, including loss of office.

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