

**Submission  
No 43**

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

**Organisation:**

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**Telephone:**

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Gordon,  
31<sup>st</sup> January, 2008.

Dear Ms. Simpson,

I would like to make some comments about donations to political parties as I am very concerned that they are corrupting our democratic process. I would like you to consider the following points:

Political donations in New South Wales show voters that Members of Parliament and political parties can be "bought" by those with enough money to do what donors want. Business and other donor entities expect a large financial return on any donations they make to political parties or politicians. Politicians in the pay of private interests cannot be trusted by the people.

The beauty and uniqueness of Sydney, which is one of the world's great cities because of its large tracts of native bushland and wildlife, is under threat due to the disgraceful overdevelopment allowed by this rotten Labor Government which happily takes 80% of its donations from land and housing developers.

There should be a limit put on political donations from the private sector and on third party election advertising, and pre-election advertising should be strictly limited to factual statements about past performance compared with past promises and future policies.

A donations cap per individual should be established (eg \$1,000 per party per annum). Donations from corporations, trade unions, associates and other organisations, from trust funds and from anyone outside New South Wales should be prohibited. Transfers within parties from outside NSW should also be prohibited. Certain types of donations should be banned, such as from gambling organisations.

The incompetence, neglect and lack of care seen in government administration of hospitals, mental health, schools, public housing, public transport, road safety, crime, planning, domestic violence, child abuse and the court system are all the result of politicians and political parties being controlled by political donors, with funds being diverted to doing the donors' bidding instead of the bidding of voters and taxpayers who elect and pay them. Politicians are paid by the people, but are controlled by donors.

Regarding public funding of elections, 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

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

I believe there should be monitoring and enforcement measures put in place to keep political donations and advertising in check. 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.

I am fifty-five years old and have never encountered such a corrupt and rotten government as this NSW State Labor Government. It is answerable to no-one except its large donors, and it has elevated the likes of Frank Sartor to a position of virtual dictatorship with regard to planning powers. I am so sad to see my once beautiful state being run down to that of a third-world country. How dare you, Mr. Iemma, and all your stinking cronies. You have destroyed this state.

I hope something good may come out of this inquiry, but as it must be the hundred thousandth inquiry already set up by this government to delay action, and to quietly sweep people's concerns under the carpet, I have no faith or hope, and I am probably wasting my time even writing this letter. I plan to move out of this state if the Labor Party gets re-elected. The damage done by this state government will take decades to fix.

Yours truly,  
Kathi Wyldeck.