

**Submission  
No 28**

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

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We need a democracy in which election candidates are elected according to their merits, not according to the amount of advertising which they can afford. Otherwise, the result is hopeless government services such as health, crime protection, road safety, child protection, court systems, planning,

Donor-funded advertising and public relations corrupts the election process by producing the election of those who can advertise best, rather than those who can govern best.

Business donors expect, and apparently receive, a substantial financial return on donations they make to political parties or politicians.

The incompetence 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 may be the result of political parties being controlled by donors and diverted to doing their bidding instead of looking after the people.

Elections would be fairer if there were a limit on what a candidate or party can spend during an election.

Public disclosure of election expenditure and donations received should be mandatory so that the media and the public can be informed. Political parties should be required to publish, e.g. on a website, details of their monthly electoral income and expenditure in similar form to the final election reporting currently required to the NSW Electoral Funding Authority.

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