

**Submission  
No 65**

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

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## **Submission on political funding for elections**

Politicians are paid by the people and should not be controlled by donors.

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.

We want a donor-free democracy.

Business and other donor entities expect a large financial return on any donations they make to political parties or politicians.

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

We have a situation of people's issues and lives versus dirty money. When that happens, money always wins.

Politicians in the pay of private interests cannot be trusted by the people.

Political donors should be banned from any contact with politicians and any money or advantage they gain from government should be deemed to flow from their donation and be payable into a public fund.

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 and diverted to doing their bidding instead of the bidding of voters and taxpayers who elect and pay them.

Politicians are paid by the people but controlled by donors.

Pre-election advertising should be strictly limited to factual statements about past performance compared with past promises and future policies.

There should be a limit on third party election advertising.

A donations cap per individual should be established.

Donations from corporations, trade unions, associates and other organizations, from trust funds and from anyone outside New South Wales should be prohibited

Transfers within parties from outside NSW should be prohibited

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.

Maree & Mike Ryan

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