

**Submission
No 142**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

Name: Ms Adrienne James

Telephone:

Date received: 19/02/2008

Huge amounts of money is being donated to influence government policy decisions in favour of the donor and at the expense of the community. The removal of government funding from companies which have a vested interest in promoting less than healthy products such as tobacco, gambling and alcohol is vitally important. The health of our young people particularly should not be compromised for short term political gain.

I would like to support the following ASH 10 points

1. Measures to increase transparency in the source of donations, including:
 - (a) prompt and transparent reports at least quarterly and in the month before an election, to a public website maintained by the Election Funding Authority;
 - (b) requirements for party committees or other fundraising bodies to state the sources of their donations; and
 - (c) a requirement that all funding disclosures must be accompanied by a report from an accredited auditor.
2. Limits on donations, such as no more than \$1,000 per year per donor.
3. Either a total ban or at least limits on political donations from organisations, including corporations and trade unions; and a total ban on donations from foreign or trans-national entities.
4. Caps on total electoral spending by all parties and candidates; and tighter controls over "independent" campaign spending by the supporters of political parties and candidates.
5. An independent committee to monitor all government advertising campaigns and ensure that public funds so spent are for the purposes of public education, not political gain.
6. In local government, introduction of public funding, conditional on compliance with caps on private funding and transparent disclosure prior to elections.
7. Increased penalties for breaching political funding laws.
8. Adequate funding to the EFA to enforce these laws.
9. Political donations no longer tax deductible - as proposed by the Assistant Federal Treasurer.
10. NSW Parliament to recommend to the Federal Government that a National Summit be convened to develop a national strategy to fundamentally reform - at federal, state/territory and local government levels - legislation in this area; measures 1-9 above should form the basis of the NSW position at the national level. This Summit should include not just politicians but a wide range of legal experts, academics and community representatives; it should be allowed sufficient time for proper consideration and comprehensive debate of all reform options.