

**Submission
No 11**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

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I make the following observations and recommendations regarding political donations in Australia.

It is very obvious that political donations are influencing governments in Australia to the detriment of tax payers and voters.

Millions of dollars were wasted by the major parties in advertising. This money would be far better spent fixing public transport, in landcare to restore vegetation along rivers to avoid fish kills as occurred in the recent floods, pay farmers to manage the land sustainably, re-use water in our cities instead of desalination plants etc etc.

Democracy would work far better if political donations were illegal.
I recommend that political donations be outlawed.

Instead politicians would depend on the people in their electorate to hand deliver leaflets as the small parties have to do. This demonstrates real commitment.

My federal member paid for two mailouts to his entire electorate. If his party had to walk the streets then very little of his election material would have been delivered.

The Australian Tax Office needs to investigate whether any donations to political parties are claimed as tax deductions. This should include dinners or other events to which politicians are invited as well as advertising etc etc..

Politicians in Australia are paid handsomely compared with many taxpayers.

By making donations to political parties illegal then Australian democracy would be more responsive to the voters instead of to big business.

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