

**Submission
No 39**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

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The political process in NSW has been severely compromised by unrestrained donations to political parties and we therefore wish to make the following submission to the inquiry presently being conducted.

- It is horrifying to read in the Sydney Morning Herald on 28.1.08 that \$16.7 million was spent by the NSW Labor before the last state election. Such excessive election spending endangers our democratic process by threatening to have the party with the biggest donations gaining government rather than the party most appropriate to govern.
- Under no circumstances should it ever occur that a meeting with a minister or premier is dependent upon a donation to the party. No individual or business should ever feel obligated to make a donation before having access to their member of parliament. At present it appears members of parliament can be influenced by party donations.
- Members of parliament should have no contact with political donors, except in documented meetings in Parliament House
- There should be a limit placed upon the amount an individual or business can donate to a party. Guidelines for this limited amount should be established by this Inquiry, and revised from time to time by an all party parliamentary committee
- A limit must be placed on the amount a party can spend during an election and each party should have an equal amount to ensure fair and equitable presentation of the party's policies and credentials.

Thanking you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully

Margaret and John Roberts