

**Submission
No 34**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

Name: Mr & Mrs D Poyzer

Telephone:

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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.

Politicians, paid by the public and using their money who are in fact controlled by donors, can be compared with medieval monarchs who were controlled by their financiers who enabled them to fight wars and gain their crowns.

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. The result is hopeless government services such as health, crime protection, road safety, child protection, court systems, planning, drugs, alcohol abuse, gambling and many more.

Ministers paid by the public to perform their duties should not double dip by being paid for meetings or dinners with certain individuals so privileged, thus ensuring benefits for the rich and neglect for the poor who cannot afford to pay more than taxes.

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.

ELECTION ADVERTISING

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.

CONTROL ON DONATIONS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- A donations cap per individual should be established (eg \$1000 per party per annum)
- 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
- Certain types of donations should be banned such as from gambling organizations

PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTIONS

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.

LIMITATIONS ON ELECTION SPENDING.

There should be a limit on what a party can spend during an election.

MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT OF MEASURES

Timeous 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.

Regards

David & Sirpa Poyzer
Warrawee