

**Submission
No 36**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

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Political Party funding arouses public concern

Suggestions that lobbying access to politicians depends upon political donations are widespread. Even if there is no truth in these allegations, steps must be taken to ensure public confidence in our political processes by regulating the method in which political party donations are made.

This can best be done by limiting political party donations to individuals who reside in NSW and who are registered on the NSW Electoral Roll. I suggest that such donations be limited to \$1000 per individual donor.

Political parties are already granted public funding for their election campaigns, but no control is exercised on the amount that parties can spend on their campaigns. Parties therefore compete for funding to create expensive campaigns, which rely heavily on advertising and avoid public meetings and opportunities for electors to meet with and question their candidates. There may be a case for limiting campaign spending, but I think that by ensuring that all donations can be traced back to an individual, and by the provision of limited public funding, political party funding will be transparent and sufficient.

Yours faithfully
Gordon Hocking
OYSTER BAY