

20 November 2017

Mr Gerry McInally
Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee into Political Influence of Donations
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

Re: Motivation behind political donations

In response to your letter dated 6 November 2017 regarding the Senate Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations, I reply to your questions as follows:

Could you outline the reasons why you make political donations?

Deloitte makes political donations to Australia's major political parties for the purpose of promoting and fostering political debate and the contribution of ideas by business and the broader community in the development and formation of policy, particularly as it relates to the economic prosperity of the country. Political donations are made at both Federal and State levels. Deloitte aims to contribute equally to Australia's major political parties.

What, if any, other activities do you undertake as well as making political donations?

We prefer to make political donations primarily in the form of covering the cost of providing facilities and hosting functions (typically boardroom style lunches, formal dinners or stand up events). These events are coordinated by the political parties including sourcing the guest speaker (typically a Minister, Shadow Minister or Member of Parliament), inviting the majority of guests and determining timing.

Deloitte also includes in its political donations the cost of attendance at political party events hosted by other organisations or the political parties in their own right.

Where we make cash donations to political parties it is for the purpose of membership of political forums allowing the firm to attend certain events and presentations.

Why do you donate to political parties?

As noted above, our donations to political parties are primarily for the purpose of promoting and fostering political debate in Australia, leading to the development and formation of policy. As a major Australian and global organisation, we believe that we have an obligation to contribute to the national political conversation particularly as it relates to the economic prosperity of the country. Where we make donations in the form of the cost of attending a function facilitated by a political party, the reason for such attendance is to remain abreast of current issues impacting business and the broader community.

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What improved outcomes for your shareholders do you expect from donations and any other similar activities?

Deloitte is a partnership and as such does not have any shareholders. Any political donations in the form described are intended to promote discussion in the development and formation of policy. We trust that this results in Deloitte being seen as a good corporate citizen and valuable contributor to the economic prosperity of the country.

Does the legislative timetable influence the extent and timeliness of your donations?

The legislative timetable does not influence the extent and timing of the firm's political donations. We set and approve an annual financial budget and undertake activities in accordance with that budget irrespective of legislative timetables. The timing of the events referred to above is largely dependent on the availability of the political party's guest speakers.

We would be pleased to provide any further information you require to assist in your inquiry.

Yours faithfully

Cindy Hook
Chief Executive Officer
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu