



28 January 2021

The Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Review of the Electoral Legislation Amendment  
(Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Act 2018**

The Ian Potter Foundation is pleased to provide the following submission about the Joint Standing Committee's review into the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Act 2018 (The Act).

We are pleased that the Committee is providing the opportunity to make public submissions about its current inquiry.

The Ian Potter Foundation is one of Australia's leading philanthropic foundations, and we work to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities across Australia. We support charities working to achieve positive social, cultural, environmental and community outcomes. We partner with charities to tackle some of the most difficult social and environmental challenges in Australia. This activity involves a range of methodologies and approaches, including at times, advocacy for policy change.

This activity is undertaken because there are occasions and issues where systemic and enduring change can only be achieved if laws and policies are reformed, and behaviours and sentiments are analysed, tested, and challenged.

In this way, The Ian Potter Foundation seeks to contribute to invigorating our democratic processes and enabling communities at the margins of our democracy to have a voice and to speak to those in power.

The Ian Potter Foundation continues to support the objectives of the Act, as amended during its passage through parliament, which seek to ensure the transparency and integrity of Australia's electoral system including through addressing foreign interference.

In its current form, the Act also preserves the ability of charities to undertake issued based advocacy activities which The Ian Potter Foundation does fund from time to time, and which we regard as an important dimension of some organisations' charitable work. We do not wish to see this important aspect of charitable work hindered at all.

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**Chief Executive Officer**  
Craig Connelly

In discussions with representatives of Philanthropy Australia, The Ian Potter Foundation understands that no members (charity or foundation) have advised Philanthropy Australia of any concerns they have regarding the operation of The Act. As a leading member of Philanthropy Australia and as a major funder of Australian charities, The Ian Potter Foundation confirms that we also are very comfortable with the legislative framework established by The Act for both charities and funders.

The Ian Potter Foundation does not believe any additional changes are necessary that would increase the regulatory burden on Australian charities, or which might hinder in any way the ability of charities to undertake appropriate issues-based advocacy.

Yours Sincerely



Craig Connelly  
Chief Executive Officer