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29 April 2016

Senate Finance and Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on behalf of the Country Liberals (Northern Territory) to the Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth legislative provisions relating to oversight of associated entities of political parties, with particular reference to the adequacy of:

- a) The funding and disclosure regime related to disclosure returns,
- b) The powers of the Australian Electoral Commission with respect to supervision of the conduct of, and reported by, associated entities of political parties; and
- c) Any other related matters; and

That the Senate direct Senator Sinodinus to appear before the committee to answer questions.

The Country Liberals are committed to complying with Commonwealth and Northern Territory disclosure laws. The Country Liberals have recently been audited by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC). Where additional information has been required by the AEC or clarification required we have worked constructively with the AEC to resolve such matters in accordance with the law.

The Country Liberals have recently implemented changes within the Party organisation and structure to ensure full and continued compliance into the future.

Whilst the Senate Inquiry is looking at associated entities the Country Liberals suggest it may wish to look at Harold Nelson Holdings Pty Ltd ABN 068 036 135. Formerly an Associated Entity of the Australian Labor Party – Northern Territory Branch. Harold Nelson Holdings according to Australian Securities and Investments Commission documents dated 22 May 2015 was still operating on 22 May 2015 and strongly connected to the ALP – NT with Mr Matthew Gardiner, a former ALP- NT President listed as a Director of the Company.

The Country Liberals believe that the AEC is best placed to advise the Senate inquiry further on matters related to associated entities and funding and disclosure regimes and returns.

The Country Liberals will continue to work with the AEC and NTEC to ensure we comply fully with disclosure requirements.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Mencshelyi
President

