



Child Protection Party

Submission on the:

Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Donation Reform and Other Measures) Bill 2020

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1. Donation Reform and Other Measures

In principle, the Child Protection Party (hereafter referred to as the Party) has no objections to the reform of donations and other measures proposed. There are, however, some changes we would like to see introduced.

2. Disclosure Threshold

The Party believes that the Bill should define a maximum allowable donation or gift per person (or per entity) per year.

We propose a maximum of \$10,000 for a personal donation and \$100,000 for a donation from an entity

In 2018/2019, Mineralogy Pty Ltd donated \$83 million to the United Australia Party. We believe that such donations are one of the factors that has led to a public distrust of the Australian political system. This figure quoted comes from the Transparency Register at <https://transparency.aec.gov.au/AnnualPoliticalParty>.

3. Expanding the Definition of “Gift”

The Party agrees with the proposed expansion of the definition of the word “gift”

The Party does not believe that all membership fees must be reported. We believe that membership fees over a prescribed maximum be reportable. For example, an annual membership fee of \$120 or less should not be reportable. Membership fees over that amount should be reportable. Our rationale is that a blanket reporting requirement would have a negative impact upon minor parties due to their limited human and financial resources.

4. Disclosure of Donations and Gifts

The Party does not disagree with this in principle. . However, if implemented, the Government must provide a secure web interface through which donors and recipients can easily update the record. To do otherwise could significantly increase the workload of party treasurers or their appointed deputies. The interface provided by the Electoral Commission of South Australia is a good example of what we believe the Australian Electoral Commission should provide.

We believe that minor parties should be granted greater leeway for the reporting of such gifts and donations due to the negative impact a 7 day reporting requirement would impose due to the limited human resources of the minor parties.

For major parties we propose that the reports should be made at the end of each week. For minor parties those reports should be made at the end of each month.

5. Anonymous Gifts

The Party believes that all gifts and donations should be reported and that the donor be identified. We believe that disallowing anonymity will make the political funding system more open and transparent thereby leading to an increase in public confidence in the political system.

The Electoral Commission of South Australia recently advised the Party that a donation we had received anonymously must be returned if we were unable to identify the donor in our 6 monthly financial return.

20th April 2020

Signed:

Date:

Avery Hilditch
Secretary
Child Protection Party

W: <https://www.childprotection.party>