

28 Sep 2017

Submission: Joint Select Committee on Political Donations

Mr Turnbull's approach to repairing energy markets: "*Shine a light on what has been a very opaque industry...*", applies equally to repairing our democracy.

As a former Senior Executive in a Global Energy Company, a consultant in a Big Five Firm and now a Company Director, I understand the realities of power and influence.

Recently, federal and state politicians, in both major parties, have lost political capital and credibility through donations, (including Local Government). This is an opportune time to repair the democratic process through **DONATION REFORM** and **CORRUPTION CONTROL**.

DONATION REFORM

Four principles are suggested, **Capture, Transparency, Cap** and **Consequences**.

Capture

The source entity to be identified for ALL INCOME - all "funds", received by political parties, individual candidates and Members of Parliament. This includes: "Electoral Committees", the \$ 10,000 per head dinners, Unincorporated Bodies etc. All income is the starting point with "exceptions" defined and contained in legislation.

Transparency

Introduce technology enabled processes to report ALL INCOME (less any legislated exceptions), to the Electoral Commission within five working days of receipt, and details be immediately posted on a public website managed by the Electoral Commission.

Cap

Limit donations to a maximum figure sum for individuals, corporations and other entities; hopefully following the models used in some Nordic Countries.

Consequences

All political parties outline a transparent process for dealing with politicians both under investigation and found guilty of corruption through a new ICAC.

CORRUPTION CONTROL

ICAC

Establish an ICAC for Federal Government. An independent, properly constituted body to examine corruption. It must avoid the Victorian Liberal party IBAC initiative that basically excludes politicians from examination.

These initiatives will restore faith in our political system, give more confidence for disaffected voters to join parties and vote (especially younger voters).

Anyone who claims that there is no corruption in the federal sphere is either a fool or a charlatan. I am in my 70's, and appreciate electoral history from Menzies to the present. Unfortunately, I believe our current Federal Parliament is the least competent since the Whitlam and McMahon years.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Grigg