



ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE LIBERAL PARTY AND THE ALP

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**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 17 Sept. 2001

## **ATT: National Media**

PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2001

# **MAJOR PARTIES TO DISCUSS POLITICAL DONATIONS**

The Liberal Party and the ALP will appear before the Electoral Matters Committee on Tuesday to discuss political party donations.

'The Committee will be seeking the views of both major parties on the allegation made by the Australian Electoral Commission that donors and political parties are abandoning the clear intent of the funding and disclosure scheme,' said Committee Chair, Mr Christopher Pyne MP, Member for Sturt. 'The Committee will also be exploring how to improve the Electoral Act to prevent this from happening.'

'Each party has expressed its commitment to a transparent funding and disclosure system in which the source of all major donations is known, and each party has its own reform priorities' Mr Pyne said.

The Liberal Party is expected to discuss the problems with using professional fundraising organisations to raise funds for political parties. People who make donations to political parties through professional fundraising organisations are currently not required to be disclosed. The Liberal Party is also expected to discuss the handling of overseas donations.

The ALP is expected to focus on the use of trusts and pledge funds in the funding of political parties. Under the current legislation, trusts and pledge funds may not be required to disclose the names of people who donate to them.

Mr Pyne Said: 'Given that both parties are experienced fundraisers, the Committee expects to hear some useful insights about how to close any loopholes in the system.'

Each party's own fundraising activities are also expected to be examined.

Ends // 17 September 2001

### **To arrange comment:**

Christopher Pyne MP (Chair)                      02 6277 4842 (Parliament House)  
08 8363 0666 (Electorate)

### **Further information:**

Kevin Bodel (Inquiry Secretary)              02 6277 2374

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PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Date:** Tuesday 18 September 2001  
**Time:** 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm  
**Place:** House of Representatives Committee Room 2R1  
Parliament House, Canberra

**Witnesses:** 12.30 pm – 1.15 pm Liberal Party of Australia  
1.15 pm – 2.00 pm Australian Labor Party

The hearing will be televised on the House Monitoring System and broadcast on the Parliamentary Internet site at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/webcast/>

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**MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

Mr Christopher Pyne MP (Chair)  
Mr Daryl Melham MP (Deputy Chair)  
Senator Andrew Bartlett  
Senator the Hon. John Faulkner  
Senator Jeannie Ferris  
Senator Brett Mason  
Senator Andrew Murray  
Mr Michael Danby MP  
The Hon. David Jull MP  
Mr Stuart St Clair MP

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**INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL FUNDING AND DISCLOSURE**

In August 2000 the Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon. Chris Ellison, requested the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters inquire into those recommendations of the Australian Electoral Commission's 1996 and 1998 Funding and Disclosure Reports not currently incorporated in legislation or not previously examined by the Committee. The Committee will report on the desirability of incorporating the remaining AEC funding and disclosure recommendations into the existing legislation.

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