

Commissioner
AEC
info@aec.gov.au

Dear Commissioner,

We refer the article below for your information.

We fully support ALP's suggestion that the extra money gained by Pauline Hanson should and MUST be repay to the appropriate authority, with interest.

Yours sincerely,

Eddie Hwang
President
Unity Party WA
Ph/Fax: 61 8 9368 1884
info@unitywa.org
09-Aug-05.

Hanson should repay election cash: Labor

August 8, 2005 - 7:40PM - age

Pauline Hanson should have to repay almost \$165,000 she pocketed from the last federal election, Labor has said.

ALP national secretary Tim Gartrell said it was wrong that the One Nation founder should be able to make a profit from an election.

He said the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) should be given the powers to investigate and even force repayment in cases where individuals benefited personally financially from public election funding.

"Ms Hanson received \$200,000 in public funding after garnering just over four per cent of the Senate primary vote in the state of Queensland," Mr Gartrell told a parliamentary inquiry into the 2004 election.

"Having spent over \$35,000 on her election campaign, it appears that Ms Hanson then pocketed the balance, more than \$164,000 - not bad for a handful of media appearances during that campaign.

"It is of deep concern that an individual should derive such personal benefit from the electoral process."

Mr Gartrell said public funding was provided to candidates to allow for free exchange of political ideas during an election campaign so that those with a genuine following could make their case for election.

He said Labor always spent more than it received in public funding and often finished campaigns in debt.

"Even if we did manage to finish a campaign in surplus, Labor has never and would never distribute the surplus election funding to any individual," Mr Gartrell said.

"Public finding should not be used to gain private profit in this way.

"I urge the committee to explore options for AEC investigation and even repayment if an individual received such a direct personal financial benefit as an unintended consequence of election funding."

Ms Hanson is still battling the Queensland Electoral Commission, claiming it owes her \$500,000 in election funding which she was forced to pay following One Nation's deregistration in Queensland in 1999

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