



Parliament of Australia

Joint Standing Committee on
Electoral Matters

FACT SHEET

Report on political funding

Issued: 9 December 2011

Chair: Mr Daryl Melham MP

FACT SHEET: PUBLIC FUNDING

Report on the funding of political parties and election campaigns

The proposed reforms to Commonwealth public funding arrangements include having a reimbursement scheme to operate alongside, but as an alternative payment option to, the per vote payment system, to help ensure that payments received are appropriate and do not provide a financial windfall to candidates. It is also proposed that winning a seat should serve as a threshold for entitlement to public funding in cases when the member or Senator has not attained the 4 per cent threshold.

A number of recommendations in the report involve increasing the amount and frequency of disclosure of donations and expenditure. Administrative funding is proposed to assist political parties and Independents to meet these obligations.

Public funding		
Features	Current scheme	Proposed approach
Reimbursement	None	Introduce a reimbursement scheme for proven electoral expenditure, as one of the options for election funding once the 4% disclosure threshold is reached
Entitlement and allocation of funding	Direct entitlement funding scheme with a threshold requirement of 4% of the first preference vote A per vote formula is applied (2010 election rate was 231.191 cents per vote for House of Representatives and Senate candidates)	Retain the 4% of first preference vote threshold for entitlement Public funding to be allocated to political parties and candidates who have obtained 4% on the basis of the <i>lesser</i> of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the application of the per vote formula; or reimbursement for proven expenditure following a claim being lodged (Recommendation 15, page 128) In addition, members who are <i>elected</i> but do not meet the 4% threshold should be entitled to the <i>lesser</i> of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the per vote rate for the first preference votes received; or reimbursement for proven expenditure following a claim being lodged (Recommendation 16, page 138)
Administrative/ ongoing funding	None	Introduce administrative funding for political parties registered at the Commonwealth level and Independent to assist them in meeting the increased administrative burdens that will come with the proposed reforms (Recommendation 18, page 146)

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair, Daryl Melham MP on 02 6277 2054 (Parliament House office) or 02 9774 2111 (Electoral office).

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