



New inquiry into the funding of political parties and election campaigns

Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee has commenced an inquiry into the funding of political parties and election campaigns.

“Our goal is for a political funding system that is fair and transparent; one that we can all have confidence in,” said Committee Chair, Daryl Melham MP.

The Committee will investigate options to improve the system for the funding of political parties and election campaigns, with particular reference to:

- (a) issues raised in the Government’s Electoral Reform Green Paper - Donations, Funding and Expenditure, released in December 2008;
- (b) the role of third parties in the electoral process;
- (c) the transparency and accountability of the funding regime;
- (d) limiting the escalating cost of elections;
- (e) any relevant measures at the state and territory level and implications for the Commonwealth; and
- (f) the international practices for the funding of political parties and election campaigns, including in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States of America.

“The Committee will seek consensus amongst key stakeholders about practical options for funding political parties and election campaigns at the federal level. It is vital that stakeholders engage in the process to ensure that viable options emerge to improve the current political funding arrangements,” said Mr Melham.

The Chair also said that the Committee will not try to reinvent the wheel, but rather to build on work that has already been done on these issues.

Stakeholders, members of the public and interested groups are invited to make submissions in writing to the Committee by **Friday, 24 June 2011**.

For more information and to follow the progress of the inquiry visit the Committee’s webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>.

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

Further information: Contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2374 or jscem@aph.gov.au.