

**From:** Chris Stewart [chriskstewart@optusnet.com.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 16 May 2008 10:21 AM

**To:** Committee, EM (REPS)

**Subject:** Electoral Enquiry

## **SUBMISSION 65**

Dear Sir Madam, I would like to submit the following thoughts to your enquiry into the conduct of the last Federal Election:

1. As a vision impaired person who has an intense interest in politics I was delighted to be able for the first time in my 53 years of life to be able to vote independently and with dignity at the last Federal election. This was due to the availability of an electronic voting system designed for use by blind and vision impaired persons. The Government should be commended for putting the resource in place and should be now in a position to roll out this opportunity across the country.
2. In relation to funding of political parties by donation I would like the following changes to ensure transparency for the public and fairness in the competition for funds. Firstly I would ban all donation by organizations and only allow donations by individuals capped at \$1000. These donations should be identified prior to an election by creating an online record which could be accessed by the public. Each political party should be provided with make up funds to a capped level to undertake campaigns. The level should be worked out by a fair formulary to ensure new and independent candidates are encouraged to run and to allow for the more established parties to have the funds to have their policies explained.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and would you send any correspondence in relation to this matter to my email address as email is my preferred medium for communication.

Thankyu

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