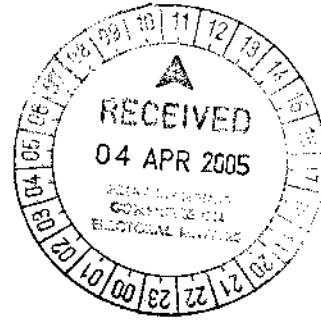




Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. <u>130</u>
Date Received <u>4-4-05</u>
Secretary <u>[Signature]</u>



31 March 2005



Peter Andren M.P.  
Federal Member for Calare

The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

**RE: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION**

Please accept this letter as my submission to the *Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters*' inquiry into the conduct of the 2004 federal election.

I will focus primarily on two aspects of the 2004 election:

- The continuing inequitable standards in the treatment of independent candidates when compared to party endorsed candidates in relation to political donations and possibly the application of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- the use of parliamentary entitlements – sanctioned and unsanctioned – by incumbent members for party political purposes during the campaign period.

Please address correspondence to:  
P.O. Box 181  
BATHURST NSW 2795  
(Suite 2, The Reliance Centre  
203-209 Russell Street)  
Tel: (02) 6332 6229  
Fax: (02) 6332 6240  
Toll Free 1300 301 762

Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6277 2341  
Fax: (02) 6277 8471

60 Main Street,  
LITHGOW NSW 2790  
Ph/Fax: (02) 6351 3838

email:  
Peter.Andren.MP@aph.gov.au  
Website:  
www.peterandren.com

**1. Tax deductibility of donations to independent candidates**

Under Section 30-15 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, donations made by individuals to political parties registered under Part XI of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* are deductible up to \$100 per financial year. Donations include money and/or property purchased during the 12 months prior to being donated.

Donations to independent candidates are not considered deductible gifts or contributions.

The *Taxation Laws Amendment (Political Donations) Bill 1999* proposed, amongst other measures dealing with political donations, to treat all donations to candidates as deductible gifts or contributions regardless of whether the candidate is independent or party-endorsed.

This bill lapsed when the 40<sup>th</sup> parliament was prorogued in 2001.

At Part 1 the bill provided for a new subdivision to be inserted into the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*: **30-DA-Donations to political parties and independent candidates and members**. I have attached the text of the bill for the committee's consideration (Attachment 1).

In principle this bill would have helped level the playing field for independent and party-endorsed candidates. However, as I stated in the second reading on this debate in 1999, I do not support the increase, from \$100 to \$1500, in the limit on how much can be deducted in a financial year.

With appropriate amendments, the legislative framework of this bill could be adopted by the committee in its recommendations, as independent candidates continue to be disadvantaged in comparison to party candidates under current arrangements.

**Recommendation:** *The Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, and any related Act/s, be amended to ensure donations to independent candidates receive the same tax treatment as donations to party-endorsed candidates.*

## **2. GST issues relating to political parties and independent candidates.**

In June 2000, the Australia Institute published an article by Julie Smith, a senior research fellow, titled *Charities, political parties and the GST*. Ms Smith contended political parties can 'exploit 'GST-free concessions' along the same lines available to registered charities.<sup>1</sup>

The article quoted tax lawyer and associate professor at the University of Sydney Cynthia Coleman who confirmed: "political parties get themselves under this GST concession because they are gift deductible entities under Division 30 of the Income tax Assessment Act". Ms Smith further explained: "Under GST laws an entity is 'gift-deductible' and can access charitable GST concessions if it is covered by Division 30 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Registered political parties appear in Section 30-15 of that law."

Ms Smith referred to comments made by then Assistant Treasurer Senator Rod Kemp that "political parties *would* be subject to GST", but then referred to the Prime Minister stating "political parties would not be subject to GST, because they are not-for-profit organisations."

I sought advice on this matter from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). The ATO advised that political parties are determined to be carrying out an enterprise in the form of a business – in that a party has members, collects membership dues, owns property and collects income from that property – and if registered

for GST, may claim back the GST component on expenses incurred in the course of carrying out that enterprise. This includes the conduct of an election campaign.

The ATO advised this situation, to the advantage of any political party, has come about through the workings of the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services) Act 1999*, the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, and various public taxation and GST rulings.

If this is the case, political parties will enjoy a 10% financial advantage over independent candidates in the course of an election campaign, not to mention in fundraising events outside an election campaign period.

**Recommendation:** *the JSCEM investigate the extent to which political parties and their candidates enjoy GST concessions on their expenses; and if this is so, the relevant Act/s be amended to ensure political parties do not receive GST concessions designed for charitable organisations and that GST laws apply equally to all candidates at federal by-elections and general elections.*

### **3. Use of Parliamentary Allowances & Entitlements during the 2004 election campaign.**

The use of parliamentary allowances and entitlements by incumbent MPs has been governed by a long-standing, general convention that such entitlements may be used only in relation to a member or senator's own re-election and *not* in support of another candidate.

This convention is not enforceable.

In recent reports examining parliamentarians entitlements, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has recommended "greater clarity and certainty" in the terms governing their use – especially during periods of by-elections and general elections.<sup>2</sup>

The only way greater certainty and clarity can be achieved, generally and during election campaigns, is to do away with so-called conventions and replace them with enforceable regulations to govern the raft of allowances and entitlements available to members and senators.

#### *Printing Entitlement*

The only increased 'clarity and certainty' the government provided in relation to members' printing entitlement during the 2004 election campaign was to blatantly expand the allowance to include *postal vote application forms and other voting material* (Department of Finance and Administration Circular No.2004/43).

'Other voting material' was specifically stated to include 'How-to-Vote' cards.

The Australian taxpayer is footing an ever increasing amount of the bill to re-elect incumbent MPs. Members of the House of Representatives have a

printing allowance of \$125,000 available to them each year. The new arrangement is essentially a cost-shifting exercise, passing to the taxpayer what in the past has been a campaign expense for the sitting member or party.

Every candidate, incumbent member, independent or party-candidate alike, should pay for their own campaign material.

The provision of postal voting applications should be the sole responsibility of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). Postal vote applications have become yet another outlet for party-political propaganda, at no expense to the party, and are a distortion of the principle of a secret ballot without coercion.

I have attached postal vote application forms distributed in Calare from each of the Liberal, National and Labor parties (Attachments 2-4). Whilst each carries the AEC's standard text in regard to the process involved in postal voting, the party-endorsed application forms provided:

- a taxpayer funded opportunity to distribute party campaign material, including party logos and photographs of candidates and/or party leaders;
- the opportunity to gather electors' contact details should they fill in additional information panels on the application forms as reply paid envelopes addressed to a senator's or party office are provided for the return of the application forms; and
- the party sponsored application forms also advertise information telephone lines for party call centres rather than the AEC.

This type of campaign material impinges on a process that should be the sole responsibility of the AEC but is distorted by the major parties to solicit personal information for party databases and influence an elector's voting intention.

Additionally, major party senators for NSW used their parliamentary printing and communications allowances to send letters to the electors of Calare publicising their respective party's candidate.

Nationals' Senator Sandy Macdonald distributed a letter on his office letterhead on 4 June 2004, publicising a government grant towards the upgrade of the Mount Panorama motor racing circuit and giving credit to the nominated Nationals candidate and urging Calare's electors to vote for this candidate (Attachment 5). This letter was distributed before the date of the election had been announced, and outside the period of the election campaign.

Liberal Senator Bill Heffernan distributed an undated letter and survey to every household in Calare, which also publicised the name and contact details of the Liberal Party candidate (Attachment 6).

Whilst the Special Minister of State may argue that the 'incidental' mention of a candidate is acceptable, in the very least these examples illustrated the great taxpayer funded advantage sitting party senators can provide to their respective party candidates in all electorates in their state.

### *Members of Parliament Staff Entitlement*

In its Audit Report No.15 2003-2004: Administration of Staff Employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*, the Auditor-General recommended the Department of Finance and Administration “increase pre- and post-payment controls over the use of the staff travel entitlements during election periods in recognition of the changed environment that exists during those periods”.<sup>3</sup> This report confirmed that claims for overtime and staff travel allowances increased significantly during election campaigns in 1998 and 2001.<sup>4</sup>

One of the most notable increases was in the travel claims of staff employed in the Government Members Secretariat (GMS) and the Cabinet Policy Unit (CPU).<sup>5</sup>

While the conventions state a member or senator may use the entitlements of office – including staff – in their own re-election, there is no clear distinction as to whether this includes the staff of ministers and other office holders or whether the deployment of staff to party campaign headquarters in Melbourne or anywhere else constitutes work in support of an individual member or senators’ re-election.

The findings of the next audit of the administration of members and senators staff will not be available until 2007, but I am confident that unless there is a legislative change to control MPs’ use of their staff entitlement, this audit will report the same spike in staff travel and overtime claims for the period of the 2004 election.

There is no reason why Australia could not adopt a system like that used in the United Kingdom where once an election is called, political staff are no longer employed by the government but become directly employed by their parties or members.

**Recommendation:** *the relevant Act/s be amended to ensure parliamentary allowances and entitlements are to be used strictly for parliamentary and electorate business only and cease to be available to sitting members and senators as soon as the date of general federal election is announced.*

#### 4. Conclusion

Given the millions of dollars parties and candidates now receive through the public funding provisions under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*; there should be no need for members or senators to use their entitlements for campaign purposes. Public election funding for the 2004 federal election amounted to \$41.9 million.

Coupled with the expense of funding parliamentarians' entitlements during an election campaign, the burden on the taxpayer is far too great, and largely unrecognised by the voting public.

A truly level playing for all candidates at any election in this country is the only way to attract the best people to stand as candidates, endorsed or otherwise. Many an interested citizen is deterred by the cost of standing for election (Refer to Attachment 7 – an extract from the Letters page of *The Australian* 31/3/05).

The only way to ensure a level playing field is to cap campaign spending for all candidates. I have long suggested a cap should be around \$50,000. This would be funded by public funding per primary vote to the maximum of \$50,000 fully audited expenditure, or a mix of public funding and far more clearly documented donations than is currently the case.

The cost to the taxpayer would be significantly reduced with incumbent MPs' entitlements quite correctly out of the question.

Yours sincerely,



**PETER ANDREN**  
Federal Member for Calare

<sup>1</sup> Smith, J., 'Charities, political parties and the GST', *The Australia Institute Newsletter*, No.23, June 2000; pp. 1-2.

<sup>2</sup> Barrett, P.J., *Parliamentarians Entitlements: 1999-2000*, Audit Report No. 5 2001-2002; at p.41.

<sup>3</sup> Barrett, P.J., *Administration of Staff Employed Under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*, Audit Report No.15 2003-2004; at recommendation no.13, p.105.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*; pp. 100-05.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*; pp 104-05.

ATTACHMENT A

1998-99

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Presented and read a first time*

**Taxation Laws Amendment (Political  
Donations) Bill 1999**

**No.     , 1999**

*(Treasury)*

**A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to  
taxation, and for related purposes**

## Contents

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Part 2—Further amendment of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997		7
Part 3—Amendment of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936		9
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**A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to  
taxation, and for related purposes**

The Parliament of Australia enacts:

**1 Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Taxation Laws Amendment (Political Donations) Act 1999*.

**2 Commencement**

This Act commences on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

**3 Schedule(s)**

Each Act that is specified in a Schedule to this Act is amended or

**Schedule 1** Donations to political parties and independent candidates and members  
**Part 4** Application of amendments

---

repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this Act has effect according to its terms.

## **Schedule 1—Donations to political parties and independent candidates and members**

### **Part 1—Insertion of new Subdivision 30-DA in the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997**

#### **1 After Subdivision 30-D**

Insert:

#### **Subdivision 30-DA—Donations to political parties and independent candidates and members**

##### **Guide to Subdivision 30-DA**

##### **30-241 What this Subdivision is about**

You can deduct certain contributions to political parties and gifts to independent candidates and members.

Contributions and gifts must be at least \$2 and there is a limit on the total amount that you can deduct.

##### **Table of sections**

###### **Operative provisions**

30-242	Deduction for political contributions and gifts
30-243	Amount of the deduction
30-244	When a person is an independent candidate
30-245	When a person is an independent member

*[This is the end of the Guide.]*

##### **Operative provisions**

##### **30-242 Deduction for political contributions and gifts**

**Schedule 1** Donations to political parties and independent candidates and members  
**Part 4** Application of amendments

---

- (1) You can deduct any of the following for the income year in which they are made:
  - (a) a contribution to a political party that is registered under Part XI of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* or under corresponding State or Territory legislation;
  - (b) a gift to a person when the person is an \*independent candidate for a Commonwealth, State, Northern Territory or Australian Capital Territory election;
  - (c) a gift to a person who is, or was, an \*independent member of the Commonwealth Parliament, a State Parliament, the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory or the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory.
- (2) The contribution or gift must be of:
  - (a) money; or
  - (b) property that you purchased during the 12 months before making the contribution or gift.
- (3) The value of the contribution or gift must be at least \$2.
- (4) You cannot deduct a testamentary contribution or gift under this Subdivision.
- (5) A gift to a person who is, or was, an \*independent member must be made:
  - (a) when the person is an independent member; or
  - (b) if the person ceases to be an independent member because:
    - (i) a Parliament, a House of a Parliament or a Legislative Assembly is dissolved or has reached its maximum duration; or
    - (ii) the person comes up for election; after the person ceases to be a member but before candidates for the resulting election are declared or otherwise publicly announced by a person authorised under the relevant electoral legislation.

**30-243 Amount of the deduction**

- (1) If the contribution or gift is money, the amount of the deduction is the amount of money.
-

- (2) If the contribution or gift is property, the amount of the deduction is the lesser of:
- (a) the market value of the property on the day that you made the contribution or gift; and
  - (b) the amount that you paid for the property.

*\$1,500 limit on deductions*

- (3) You cannot deduct more than \$1,500 under this Subdivision for an income year for contributions to political parties.
- (4) You cannot deduct more than \$1,500 under this Subdivision for an income year for gifts to \*independent candidates or \*independent members.

**30-244 When a person is an independent candidate**

- (1) A person is an *independent candidate* if:
- (a) the person is a candidate in an election (including an election that is later declared void) for members of the Commonwealth Parliament, a State Parliament, the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory or the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory; and
  - (b) the person's candidature is not endorsed by a political party that is registered under Part XI of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* or under corresponding State or Territory legislation.
- (2) However, a person does not start being an \*independent candidate until the candidates for the election are declared or otherwise publicly announced by a person authorised under the relevant electoral legislation.
- (3) A person stops being an \*independent candidate when the result of the election is declared or otherwise publicly announced by a person authorised under the relevant electoral legislation.
- (4) If:
- (a) the election is taken to have wholly failed under the relevant electoral legislation; and

**Schedule 1** Donations to political parties and independent candidates and members  
**Part 4** Application of amendments

---

- (b) the result of the election has not been declared or otherwise publicly announced by a person authorised under the relevant electoral legislation;
- the person stops being an independent candidate in that election when candidates for the replacement election are declared or otherwise publicly announced by a person authorised under the relevant electoral legislation.

**30-245 When a person is an independent member**

- (1) A person is an *independent member* of the Commonwealth Parliament, a State Parliament, the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory or the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory if the person:
- (a) is a member of that Parliament or Legislative Assembly; and
  - (b) the person is not a member of a political party that is registered under Part XI of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* or under corresponding State or Territory legislation.
- (2) A person who becomes a member as a result of an election (including an election that is later declared void) is taken to start being a member of the Parliament or Legislative Assembly when the person's election as a member is declared or otherwise publicly announced by a person authorised under the relevant electoral legislation.

**Part 2—Further amendment of the Income Tax  
Assessment Act 1997**

**2 Subsection 30-5(1)**

After “making”, insert “a contribution to a political party, a gift to an independent candidate or member or”.

**3 Subsection 30-5(1) (note)**

Repeal the note, substitute:

Note 1: Subdivision 30-D deals with the deductibility of testamentary gifts under the Cultural Bequests Program.

Note 2: Subdivision 30-DA deals with the deductibility of contributions to political parties and gifts to independent candidates and members.

**4 Subsection 30-5(2)**

Omit “and contributions”.

**5 Subsection 30-5(2)**

Omit “or contribution”.

**6 Subdivision 30-A (heading)**

Repeal the heading, substitute:

**Subdivision 30-A—Deductions for gifts**

**7 Subsection 30-15(1)**

Omit “or contribution” (wherever occurring).

Note: The heading to section 30-15 is altered by omitting “or contributions”.

**8 Subsection 30-15(2)**

Omit “or contribution” (wherever occurring).

**9 Subsection 30-15(2) (note)**

Renumber the note as Note 1.

**10 Subsection 30-15(2) (after note 1)**

**Schedule 1** Donations to political parties and independent candidates and members  
**Part 4** Application of amendments

---

Insert:

Note 2: Subdivision 30-DA deals with the deductibility of contributions to political parties and gifts to independent candidates and members.

**11 Subsection 30-15(2) (table heading)**

Omit "or contributions".

**12 Subsection 30-15(2) (table item 3)**

Repeal the item.

**13 Subsection 30-315(2) (table item 87)**

Omit "contributions", substitute "parties and independent candidates and members".

**14 Subsection 30-315(2) (table item 87)**

Omit "item 3 of the table in section 30-15", substitute "Subdivision 30-DA".

**15 Subsection 995-1(1)**

Insert:

*independent candidate* has the meaning given by section 30-244.

**16 Subsection 995-1(1)**

Insert:

*independent member* has the meaning given by section 30-245.



**Part 3—Amendment of the Income Tax Assessment  
Act 1936**

**17 Subsections 78A(2), (3) and (4)**

Omit “fund, authority or institution” (wherever occurring), substitute  
“fund, authority, institution or person”.

## **Part 4—Application of amendments**

### **18 Application**

The amendments made by this Schedule apply to contributions or gifts made on or after 1 July 1998.

**ATTACHMENT B**

**Remember, voting at the Federal Election is Compulsory**

If you can't make it to a polling booth on election day

If you can't make it to a polling booth on election day and, after reading the instructions inside, need further information or assistance, phone our information line on:

**1300 139 178**

**This is how you can still vote Liberal**

Full details inside



**If you would like to vote by mail, please complete the form on the back and return it in the reply-paid envelope provided by the Wednesday before polling day.**

**If you would prefer to vote in person before polling day and would like further information, please complete the details below and return in the reply-paid envelope provided.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I need another copy of the reply-paid envelope form

I need information about voting in person

I need information about pre-polling

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Need more information?**  
 Contact our Information Centre  
**1300 139 178**  
 Email: [vote@ns Liberal.org.au](mailto:vote@ns Liberal.org.au)

polling day.  
 The Electoral Commission will provide a reply-paid envelope for you to use to return your ballot paper to the Electoral Commission. The envelope will be provided to you on the Wednesday before polling day. You will need to complete the envelope and return it to the Electoral Commission by the Wednesday before polling day.  
 If you are unable to return your ballot paper to the Electoral Commission by the Wednesday before polling day, you can still vote in person at a polling booth on the day of the election.

**How can I get more information?**  
 You can get more information about the election by visiting the Electoral Commission website at [www.ec.gov.au](http://www.ec.gov.au) or by calling 1300 139 178.

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 You can get more information about the election by visiting the Electoral Commission website at [www.ec.gov.au](http://www.ec.gov.au) or by calling 1300 139 178.

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**If you would like to vote by mail, please complete the form on the back and return it in the reply-paid envelope provided.**

**If you would prefer to vote in person before polling day and would like further information, please complete the details below and return in the reply-paid envelope provided.**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: (H) ..... (W) .....

Fax: .....

E-mail: .....

**or e-mail us**

To obtain information quickly, simply e-mail your request to:  
[senator.sandy.macdonald@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sandy.macdonald@aph.gov.au)

**Need more information?**

**Phone: 1300 301 816**

**Web: [www.sandymacdonald.com.au](http://www.sandymacdonald.com.au)**

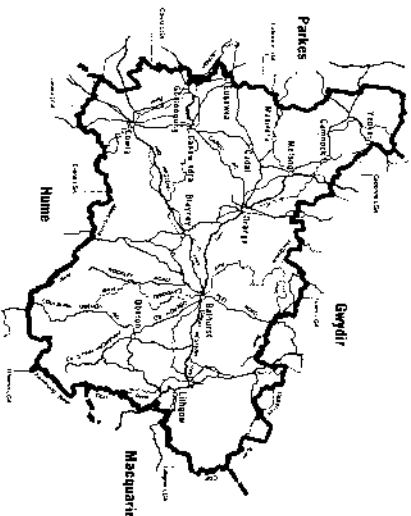
Calcare

**Your vote is important**

If you can't make it to a polling booth on election day and, after reading the instructions inside need further information or assistance, phone 1300 301 816.



Senator Sandy Macdonald with local Calcare resident Robert Griffith



**Calcare electorate**

**THE NATIONALS**

Authorised by A. Hon. John Newman, House of Representatives, 7 National Circus, Barton ACT 2600  
Printed by the Electoral Commission, 31 Prince of Wales Drive, Canberra ACT 2600

ATTACHMENT C

**If you can't make it to a polling booth, you can still**

**Have Your Say on**

**election day**

**Official**

**Postal Voting details inside**



Qualifications for an applicant  
The Commonwealth Electoral Act provides that an elector is entitled to apply for a postal vote if:

- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be absent from the State or Territory for which the elector is enrolled
- the elector will not, at any time during the hours of polling on polling day, be within 8 kilometres by the nearest practicable route of any polling booth in the State or Territory for which the elector is enrolled
- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be travelling under conditions that will prevent the elector attending a polling booth in the State or Territory for which the elector is enrolled
- the elector will be unable to attend a polling booth on polling day because of:
  - (a) serious illness
  - (b) infirmity, or
  - (c) approaching childbirth
- on polling day, the elector will be unable to attend a polling booth because the elector will be at a place (other than a hospital) caring for a person who is seriously ill or infirm or who is expected shortly to give birth
- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be a patient at a hospital (other than a special hospital) and unable to vote at the hospital
- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be a patient at a special hospital but will be unable to have his or her vote taken by a mobile polling team
- because of the elector's religious beliefs or membership of a religious order, the elector:
  - (a) is precluded from attending a polling booth, or
  - (b) for the greater part of the hours of polling on polling day, is precluded from attending a polling booth
- on polling day, the elector will be serving a sentence of imprisonment or otherwise under detention
- the elector's address has been excluded from the roll as a silent elector
- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be engaged in his or her employment or occupation and:
  - (a) if the elector is an employee, the elector is not entitled to leave of absence, and
  - (b) in any other case, the absence of the elector for the purpose of attending at a polling booth to vote would be likely to cause loss to the person in his or her occupation.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION USING BLOCK LETTERS AND BLUE OR BLACK INK

The personal information you give on this application is used for electoral purposes only and may be viewed by authorised staff and scrutineers. See the back of this application for further information about public inspection.  
Note: Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

- Your date of birth is required for identification and security reasons.
- Your claimed enrolled address is the address that appears on the electoral roll.

- Please give the postal address where you want your voting papers sent. If it is the same as your claimed enrolled address, print 'as above'.

Please check the section 'Qualifications for an applicant' before you sign this declaration. You must sign this declaration in front of a witness. There is a penalty for making a false statement.

- A witness must:
- be 18 years of age or older
  - see the applicant sign the application
  - know or be satisfied that the statements contained in the application are true, and
  - sign and date the application, and write their name and address.

Who can be a witness?  
If you are in Australia, a witness must be an elector whose name appears on a Commonwealth of Australia electoral roll.  
Spouses may witness each other's signature provided both are qualified witnesses.  
If you are overseas, please see the back of this application for further information about witnesses.

For any enquiries, phone  
**13 23 26**  
or visit [www.abc.gov.au](http://www.abc.gov.au)

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS FOR A POSTAL APPLICATION FOR A POSTAL VOTE  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
**ATTACHMENT C**

1 Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Dr etc)  
Surname / family name  
Given names  
Date of birth  
Day Month Year  
Postcode

2 Your claimed enrolled address  
3 Daytime phone number for contact (if convenient)  
Postcode

4 Postal address where voting papers should be sent  
Postcode

DECLARATION  
I declare that I am entitled to apply for a postal vote.  
Signature or name of applicant  
Date Month Year  
Note: Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

WITNESS  
I am satisfied as to the identity of the applicant. I saw the applicant sign this application. I am satisfied that all statements in it are true.  
Signature  
Date Month Year

Name  
BLOCK LETTERS  
Address  
OR  
I am overseas and unable to find a suitable witness. I have attached the appropriate documents as detailed under 'What if I am overseas and can't find a suitable witness?'  
Date of issue  
Elector's Division  
Initials  
FF034  
Red

OFFICE USE  
Date of issue  
Elector's Division  
Initials  
FF034  
Red



## ATTACHMENT C

### PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Fellow Australian

As you will be aware, a Federal Election has been called and we have some important choices in front of us.

If you will be away on election day, please fill out one of the attached postal vote application forms and return it in the reply-paid envelope. I will ensure the Australian Electoral Commission is able to forward ballot papers to you prior to election day.

As a Senator for NSW, I am working hard to deliver better education, health and aged care services, better roads and more jobs for locals. It is also important that you take advantage of the assistance my office provides in relation to Federal services and grants. This may relate to enquiries about social security, immigration, telecommunications, health, employment, taxation or any other Federal issue. My office can be contacted toll-free on 1300 301 816 or via my website [www.sandymacdonald.com.au](http://www.sandymacdonald.com.au)

As a member of The Nationals team, I am committed to ensuring that this electorate has a pro-active voice in a Coalition Government - a government that has delivered:

- Lowest unemployment rates in 30 years,
- Lowest inflation and mortgage interest rates in 30 years,
- Record funds committed to roads, rail and the environment,
- Balanced budgets and a massive reduction in Labor's \$96 billion debt.

The Nationals team is about continued action to ensure we can make a difference in rural and regional Australia.

Yours sincerely

Senator Sandy Macdonald  
The Nationals Senator for NSW

SENATOR SANDY MACDONALD The Nationals Senator for NSW

THE NATIONALS – ADVANCING AUSTRALIA FAIRLY

467 Peel Street  
TAMWORTH, N.S.W 2340  
Tel. (07) 6766 6998  
Fax. (02) 6766 4169  
Free Call: 1300 301 816





## Qualifications for an applicant

The Commonwealth Electoral Act provides that an elector is entitled to apply for a postal vote if:

- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be absent from the State or Territory for which the elector is enrolled
- the elector will not, at any time during the hours of polling on polling day, be within 8 kilometres by the nearest practicable route of any polling booth in the State or Territory for which the elector is enrolled
- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be travelling under conditions that will prevent the elector attending a polling booth in the State or Territory for which the elector is enrolled
- the elector will be unable to attend a polling booth on polling day because of:
  - (a) serious illness
  - (b) infirmity, or
  - (c) approaching childbirth
- on polling day, the elector will be unable to attend a polling booth because the elector will be at a place (other than a hospital) caring for a person who is seriously ill or infirm or who is expected shortly to give birth
- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be a patient at a hospital (other than a special hospital) and unable to vote at the hospital
- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be a patient at a special hospital but will be unable to have his or her vote taken by a mobile polling team
- because of the elector's religious beliefs or membership of a religious order, the elector:
  - (a) is precluded from attending a polling booth, or
  - (b) for the greater part of the hours of polling on polling day, is precluded from attending a polling booth
- on polling day, the elector will be serving a sentence of imprisonment or otherwise under detention
- the elector's address has been excluded from the roll as a silent elector
- throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be engaged in his or her employment or occupation and:
  - (a) if the elector is an employee, the elector is not entitled to leave of absence, and
  - (b) in any other case, the absence of the elector for the purpose of attending at a polling booth to vote would be likely to cause loss to the person in his or her occupation.

## How to fill out your postal vote application form

This leaflet contains a postal vote application.

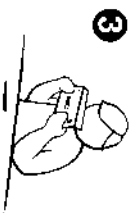
Only 1 name per application. If you need more forms phone 1800 005 052.



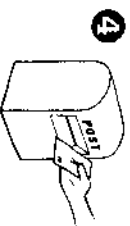
**1** Fill out your form  
Detach and fill out the postal vote application form.



**2** Witness must complete  
The person witnessing your signature must sign the form. If they don't your application will not be accepted.



**3** Fold & put in envelope  
Put in an envelope addressed to:  
Country Labor  
Reply Paid 95  
Goulburn NSW 2580

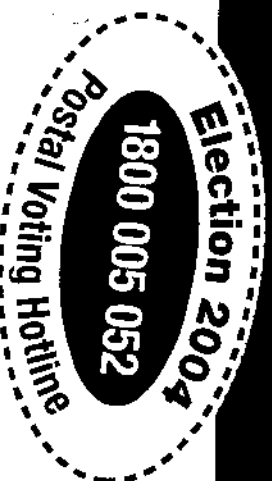


**4** Mail immediately  
Post the application form immediately. You don't need a stamp.

For help or more forms  1800 005 052

Authorised by Ursula Stephens, 377 Sussex St, Sydney.  
Printed by Teldor, 6/809 Botany Rd, Rosebery.

## Important Postal Voting Information



**Mark Latham  
& Country Labor**



**Opportunity for All**



ATTACHMENT D

# ATTACHMENT D

## PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION USING BLOCK LETTERS AND BLUE OR BLACK INK

The personal information you give on this application is used for electoral purposes only and may be viewed by authorised staff and scrutineers. See the back of this application for further information about public inspection.

**Note:** Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

- Your date of birth is required for identification and security reasons.
- Your claimed enrolled address is the address that appears on the electoral roll.

- Please give the postal address where you want your voting papers sent. If it is the same as your claimed enrolled address, print 'as above'.

Please check the section 'Qualifications for an applicant' before you sign this declaration. You must sign this declaration in front of a witness. There is a penalty for making a false statement.

- A witness must:**
- be satisfied as to the identity of the applicant
  - see the applicant sign the application
  - know or be satisfied that the statements contained in the application are true, and
  - sign and date the application, and write their name and address

**Who can be a witness?**  
If you are in Australia, a witness must be an elector whose name appears on a Commonwealth of Australia electoral roll. Spouses may witness each other's signature provided both are qualified witnesses.

If you are overseas, please see the back of this application for further information about witnesses.

For any enquiries phone **13 23 26** OR VISIT the website! **www.aec.gov.au**

## Postal voting

An application for a postal vote may be made to any Divisional Returning Officer (DRO) at any time after the announcement of the electoral referendum. However, you should keep in mind that the application must reach the DRO by the last mail clearance on the Thursday before polling day to allow for the voting material to be sent to you for completion and posting before the close of the voting. Late applications will not be processed.

If you wish to send this form electronically, you may send it via fax to the relevant DRO. No other kind of electronic communication will be accepted. By taking this form you agree that the time of receipt is the time when the message has completed printing from the relevant Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) tax machine, and that you will not hold the AEC responsible for any deadlines missed or losses incurred. For further information, please refer to **www.aec.gov.au** or call 13 23 26.

Reply paid envelopes for posting your application are available at any Post Office in Australia.

## Pre-poll voting

Voters who qualify for a postal vote can cast a pre-poll vote if it is more convenient. Pre-poll voting is available at any Divisional Office or at any of the advertised Pre-Poll Voting Centres.

## Where can I get more information?

You can get more information (including the location of polling places and Pre-Poll Voting Centres) at any office of the AEC or by ringing 13 23 26 in Australia, or +61 2 6271 4419 from overseas. Information is also available at the AEC's website at **www.aec.gov.au**

## Public inspection

The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1978* allows for:  
public inspection of postal vote applications at the Divisional Office lists of postal vote applicants to be made available in electronic form to candidates and registered political parties  
from the third day after polling until the election/referendum can no longer be questioned

### OFFICE USE

Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION FOR A POSTAL VOTE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

- Title (Mr, Ms, Mrs, Miss, Dr etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname / family name \_\_\_\_\_  
Given names \_\_\_\_\_

- Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

- Your claimed enrolled address \_\_\_\_\_

- Daytime phone number for contact (if convenient) \_\_\_\_\_

- Postal address where voting papers should be sent \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

### DECLARATION

I declare that I am entitled to apply for a postal vote.

Signature or mark of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

### WITNESS

I am satisfied as to the identity of the applicant. I saw the applicant sign this application. I am satisfied that all statements in it are true.

Signature of witness \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name BLOCK LETTERS \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

OR

I am overseas and unable to find a suitable witness. I have attached the appropriate documents as detailed under 'What if I am overseas and can't find a suitable witness?'

### OFFICE USE

Elector's Division \_\_\_\_\_

Date of issue \_\_\_\_\_

Issuing Overseas Post \_\_\_\_\_

Date cert. rec'd in Division for which vote claimed \_\_\_\_\_

Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
EFO24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ref. \_\_\_\_\_



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA • THE SENATE  
SENATOR SANDY MACDONALD  
The Nationals Senator for NSW

4 June 2004

Mr Harris  
26 Keppel Street  
BATHURST NSW 2795

ATTACHMENT E

Dear Mr Harris

I would like to draw your attention to the wonderful news that the Australian Government has provided an extra \$10 million to upgrade facilities at Mount Panorama.

A number of year-round tourist facilities will be established at the track, the media centre and podium will be completed and better access for race-goers will be provided with the assistance of this Federal money.

This \$10 million is one example of how the Federal Coalition Government is doing the things that need to be done for regional Australia.

The Nationals are a team that is working hard inside the Federal Government to make sure our regional communities win the race for funding for important local projects.

One of those team members is Orange's **Robert Griffith** who is **The Nationals Candidate for Calare**. **Remember if you want to keep a strong Coalition Government, you must help to re-elect it.**

**Robert Griffith** lobbied hard for this funding to Mount Panorama and met with a number of Government Senators, Members and Ministers to get action on this project. He will get results on your behalf as your member of Parliament.

If you would like any further information about the Mount Panorama announcement, you can contact me through my website at [www.sandymacdonald.com.au](http://www.sandymacdonald.com.au) or you can contact Robert Griffith through his website at [www.robertgriffith.net](http://www.robertgriffith.net)

Yours sincerely

**SANDY MACDONALD**  
**THE NATIONALS SENATOR FOR NSW**



Mr Robert Griffith and Senator Macdonald

**P.S. Remember - if you want to keep a Coalition Government, you must help to re-elect it.**



**SENATOR THE HON BILL HEFFERNAN**  
*Senator for New South Wales*

Chairman – Senate Rural and Regional Affairs  
and Transport Legislation Committee

Suite 703, Westfield Towers  
100 William Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2011

Telephone: (02) 9357 2600  
Facsimile: (02) 9357 2291  
Freecall: 1 800 501 795

**An Important Message  
For the Householder**

**ATTACHMENT F**

Dear Resident,

The Federal Government is continuing its strategy of reducing debt in order to give something back to the decent hardworking Australians who have and continue to contribute to the strength of our nation. It also takes into account the difficult challenges we as a nation have faced in recent years and may continue to face such as terrorism and the severe drought affecting so many, including the people of Calare.

Having built a strong economy, the Coalition is in a position to give more help to our country's most important building block – our families, by providing **\$19.2 billion** over five years as part of the **family assistance package**. Along with **substantial tax cuts**, families will now have some relief with the costs of raising children and household expenses.

Looking after senior Australians who spent a lifetime building and serving our great country is one of the key priorities of the Howard Government. We are committing an extra **\$2.2 billion to aged care**, including an extra **\$878 million to aged care providers** to improve the quality of care.

The Howard Government has announced the details of **AusLink** – an integrated transport package that provides a clear vision for future transport infrastructure needs.

We need to ensure that the Australian economy remains strong. The current economic climate, including low interest rates, has not happened by accident, but through responsible economic management. The Coalition Government is committed to ensuring that all regions of Australia, including Calare, are able to reap the benefits of Australia's economic prosperity.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact my office or Liberal candidate for Calare, **Paul Blanch** on 6334 4566.

Yours sincerely

**BILL HEFFERNAN**

P.S. Please find attached a survey. I value your feedback and look forward to hearing from you.

# CALARE - Have your say

Please number (from 1 to 4) the four most important initiatives to you:

- Family Tax Benefit – an increase of \$600 a year in the maximum and base rates of FTB with all eligible families also receiving an extra \$600 per child
- Providing a new Maternity Payment of \$3,000 will be introduced from July 2004 and increased to \$4,000 from July 2006 and \$5,000 in July 2008. This will be non means tested and paid for every new born child
- Substantial tax relief – increasing the income threshold for the 42% tax rate to \$58,001 in 2004-05 and \$63,001 in 2005-06, and increasing the 47% tax rate to \$70,001 in 2004-05 and \$80,001 in 2005-06
- More than \$20 million for a new National Community Crime Prevention Programme to fund grassroots projects to prevent crime and enhance community safety
- An extra \$2.2 billion over five years to expand the number of aged care places and improve the quality of care and facilities
- Providing \$255 million for a one-off carer bonus to be paid to eligible carers in June 2004 in recognition of their role of caring for a person with a disability
- Increasing funding for schools by \$8 billion to \$31.3 billion over the next four years. This will be conditional on the states implementing standards designed to help students and their parents
- Increasing funding by \$99 million in 2004-05 in both the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality

**If you could fix any problem in our local area, what would it be?**

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Please complete the following details so I can get in touch with you.

Title (eg Mr, Ms, Mrs, Dr) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Generally, do you consider yourself:**

**A committed party voter**  
 (please specify which party you are committed to.)

- Labor     Liberal     National
- Green     Democrat     Independent
- One Nation

**An uncommitted/swinging voter**  
 (if uncommitted, which party do you generally prefer?)

- Labor     Liberal     National
- Green     Democrat     Independent
- One Nation

**Please return to**

Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan  
 Senator for NSW  
 Suite 703, Westfield Towers  
 100 William St  
 SYDNEY NSW 2011

or fax to: (02) 9357 2800

# Money power removes polities from reality

WITH Malcolm Turnbull departing (30/3) he spent over 300,000 on his successful bid for Wentworth at the last federal election, the question is: how much does he believe in the little person who believes that he or she has something to offer the Australian people? Must be asking is what chance they have got of ever entering the halls of power, unless they make donations from questionable sources.

And even if their attempt is successful, how much are they for their own person?

After all, those who have lobbied to the cause will certainly want a return on their money. It has always been lobbied against those without personal fortunes or party backing, and these days it



appears to be even worse. It is little wonder that those who are elected to represent us are in the main far removed from the real world and its needs.

**D.Fraser**  
Gold Coast, Qld

*The Australian, Thursday 31 March 2005, p. 10.*

YOUR editorial on campaign finances (30/3) states the obvious. In many Asian countries a political donation is recognised as a bribe in advance, nothing more, nothing less.

**Clive Troy**  
Beecroft, NSW

HOW much will Turnbull spend to get his face on the \$5 note?

**John Wylie**  
Wagga Wagga, NSW

MOST of us would like to think that our elected representatives of both parliamentary houses are people of the highest calibre, hopefully adding to our cultural heritage.

For this reason I am very grateful that the failed

Queensland senate candidate, Hetty Johnston, is not now in a position to influence the decision-making process of the senate, having accepted campaign money from the porn industry.

**Barbara Rossall-Wynne**  
Montmorency, Vic

JOHNSTON says it's OK for her to receive \$4000 in election campaign donations from the "adult pornography industry" because it doesn't hurt children (30/3).

I bet kids whose parents split because Dad uses the services of this industry would beg to differ.

**Lyle Shelton**  
Toowoomba, Qld

ATTACHMENT G