



House of Representatives
Standing Committee of Privileges
and Members' Interests

Publication of the Register of Members'
Interests on the Australian Parliament
website

June 2010

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

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Interests on the Australian Parliament
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Chair Mr Brett Raguse MP

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Members Mrs Joanna Gash MP

Mr Steve Georganas MP

Ms Jennie George MP (Representative of Leader of the House)

Mr Petro Georgiou MP (Representative of the Deputy Leader of the
Opposition)

Mr Daryl Melham MP

Hon Roger Price MP

Mr Don Randall MP

Hon Alex Somlyay MP

Mr Craig Thomson MP

On line publication of Register of Members' Interests

- 1.1 The Committee has been considering the issue of the publication of the details of Members' interests on the Australian Parliament (AP) website and how such publication might be achieved. The Committee presented a discussion paper to the House on the matter in November 2009 and invited comment.
- 1.2 Under standing order 216, the Committee may:
- inquire into and report on arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register; and
 - consider proposals by members and others on the form and content of the Register.
- 1.3 Specifically under the resolution relating to the Register of Members' Interests:
- a) the Registrar of Members' Interests shall, in accordance with procedures determined by the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests, maintain a Register of Members' Interests **in a form to be determined by that committee from time to time** (emphasis added);

- b) as soon as possible after the commencement of each Parliament the chairman of the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests shall table in the House a copy of the completed Register of Members' Interests and shall also table from time to time as required any notification by a Member of alteration of those interests; and
- c) the Register of Members' Interests shall be available for inspection by any person **under conditions to be laid down by the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests from time to time** (emphasis added).

1.4 Thus a decision to make the Register available on the AP website, and the form it would take, is one that the Committee can make.

1.5 The Committee proposes the following changes to the way in which the Register is published to enable on line access:

- at the commencement of each Parliament (commencing with the 43rd Parliament), each Member's initial interest return will be scanned and immediately after the returns have been tabled in the House, the full set will be posted to the AP website in a pdf version. The initial comprehensive statements by Members will thus be available on the same day as they were presented to the House;
- notices of alterations will be copied and scanned and then be posted;
- the updates of alterations will occur at least weekly and the details of alterations will be posted with the initial declarations for each Member enabling easier checking of individual Member's declarations; and
- the main point of access on the AP website will be a new item – Statements of Members' interests. There also will be a link to the Committee's own home page. A mock-up of how this page will appear on the website is shown as an attachment to this report.

- 1.6 The Committee is also proposing to have a number of security features included in the entries. These are:
- a unique watermark inserted in the document which would be included when the document is printed out;
 - blocking the signatures of Members before posting; and
 - including features to restrict cutting and pasting of the document.
- 1.7 The Committee understands that the Committee of Senators' Interests is proposing to adopt a similar approach to that of this Committee in publishing the details of Senators' interests in the 43rd Parliament.
- 1.8 The Committee will continue, as it is required to do by the resolution of the House, to table in the House copies of the initial statements of interests by Members and periodically the notification of alterations. The Register will also continue to be available for inspection, although it is expected that having the statements available on line will reduce the number of inspections significantly.
- 1.9 As noted in the Committee's discussion paper on this matter, the Committee believes that the approach it is proposing to electronic publication of the Register of Members' Interests will provide for a sensible balance between considerations of integrity of the data, ease of access for those using the system, transparency and administrative efficiency.

Mr B Raguse MP
Chair
June 2010

House of Representatives Standing Committee of Privileges: Members' Interests statements - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/register/index.htm>

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Register of Members' Interests

42nd Parliament: Members' Interests statements - (last updated 19 June 2009)

Within 20 days of making an oath or affirmation, each Member is required to provide to the Registrar of Members' Interests a statement of the Member's registrable interests. The registrable interests of which the Member is aware of the Member's spouse and any children wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support must also be included in the statement. The statement is to include:

- in the case of new Members, interests held at the date of the Member's election;
- in the case of re-elected Members of the immediately preceding Parliament, interests held at the date of dissolution of that Parliament; and
- changes in interests between these dates and the date of the statement.

Members are required to notify any alterations to those interests to the Registrar within 28 days of the alteration occurring.

Members' interest statements for the 42nd Parliament are available to view below. Updates to Members' Interest statements are tabled at the end of the Autumn, Winter and Spring sessions of Parliament.

- [Abbott, The Hon Tony, Member for Warringah](#)
- [Adams, The Hon Dick, Member for Lyons](#)
- [Albanese, The Hon Anthony, Member for Grayndler](#)
- [Andrews, The Hon Kevin, Member for Menzies](#)
- [Bailey, The Hon Fran, Member for McEwan](#)
- [Baldwin, The Hon Bob, Member for Paterson](#)
- [Bevis, The Hon Arch, Member for Brisbane](#)
- [Bidgood, Mr James, Member for Dawson](#)
- [Billson, The Hon Bruce, Member for Dunkley](#)
- [Bird, Ms Sharon, Member for Cunningham](#)
- [Dizog, The Hon Bronwyn, Member for Macellar](#)

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