

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Paul Ramsay Holdings' annual return

Senator: Rhiannon

Question reference number: F44

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 119, 24 February 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RHIANNON: The Paul Ramsay Holdings' annual return—in the data that came out on 2 February—declared \$600,000 in donations to the federal Liberal Party. Paul Ramsay Holdings also donated \$50,000 to the New South Wales branch of the Liberal Party. Neither of those amounts appears in the annual returns of either the federal or the New South Wales Liberal Party. Have you picked up that large discrepancy in your investigations?

...

Mr Rogers: I do not have that information in front of me, but I am happy to take it on notice and come back to you with that information.

Answer:

Paul Ramsay Holdings' financial return 2013-14 shows that an amount of \$50,000 was nominated for donation to the NSW branch of the Liberal Party, \$550,000 to the Federal Liberal Party and \$25,000 to the National Party of Australia. This donation of \$625,000 was paid to The Free Enterprise Foundation, an associated entity of the Liberal and National Parties.

Under section 305B(2) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act), donors who donate to a third party, including associated entities, with the intention of benefiting a political party are required to disclose as if they had made a donation directly to that political party. Paul Ramsay Holdings has therefore fulfilled the disclosure requirements of the Act.

The Free Enterprise Foundation disclosed the receipt of a donation from Paul Ramsay Holdings of \$625,000, also fulfilling the disclosure requirements of the Act.