

Date/Time 27 May '10, 11:40a
Witness Name Sen. Kemble

51. Labor will abolish the tax-deductibility of political donations, and reverse the Howard Government's attempt to hide donations by lifting the disclosure threshold from \$1,500 to \$10,000.

Organisation

Integrity and Openness in Government Administration

52. In government, Labor will ensure the highest standards of integrity, transparency in decision making, openness and accountability are maintained.
53. Labor will seek to encourage and lead public debate on important public policy issues by publishing appropriate, taxpayer-funded research.
54. Labor will not support the use of government advertising for political purposes. Labor will introduce legislation to ensure:
- government advertising campaigns only occur after government policy has been legislated for by parliament;
 - all government advertising and information campaigns provide objective, factual and explanatory information, free from partisan promotion of government policy and political argument and in an unbiased and objective language;
 - all advertising campaigns in excess of \$250,000 are examined by the Public Service Commissioner, who will report to ministers on whether the proposed advertising complies with Auditor-General's 1998 guidelines on government advertising; and
 - the cost of government advertising is minimised by the targeted use of media other than television advertising.
55. Labor will promote transparency and open government through improved freedom of information legislation. Conclusive certificates will be abolished and internal working documents that do not compromise national security will be accessible. Reports on the operation of government and government-funded agencies will be regularly tabled in parliament.
56. Freedom of information provisions should be available to all. Labor will ensure that the costs involved in using freedom of information procedures do not put them out of reach of the community.
57. Labor will ensure that considerations relating to outsourcing, privatisation, notions of commercial confidentiality and corporatisation are not used as excuses to allow government and government-funded agencies to escape the requirements of open government and accountability. The rights of clients and other recipients of such services, including rights to access to information, privacy, correction of inaccurate information and, where necessary, redress, will be maintained.
58. Labor recognises the responsibility of government to provide the necessary regulatory frameworks to ensure people, particularly clients and other recipients of services, are protected.
59. Labor recognises that where the government acknowledges responsibility to provide a service, it must guarantee delivery standards. This will require that the performance of service providers, whether they be public or private sector, be subject to examination by the Auditor General. Labor remains committed to a strong, independent and well resourced national audit office capable of providing objective and balanced audit advice and assurance to the parliament, government and public sector entities.