

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Political donations

Senator: Faulkner

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator FAULKNER: I do not know if you have noticed, Mr Killesteyn, but there has been a little bit of debate in the parliament here, and more broadly, around some proposed electoral funding legislation. I appreciate that it is likely that you may not be able to help me at the table. First of all, I ask whether it would be possible for the AEC to provide the committee with some information in relation to either raw numbers or proportions of donations that appeared in four categories: from up to \$1,000, from \$1,000 to \$5,000, from \$5,000 to the current indexed amount, which I think is a little over \$12,000—you might be able to provide that precise figure to us—and above that limit. I do not necessarily expect you to carry that information in your back pocket, but I am asking you first of all whether it would be possible for the AEC, in one or other jurisdictions, to provide that sort of information to the committee? I am not interested in a massive make-work exercise; I am interested, in the first instance, to understand whether that sort of information might be available.

Mr Pirani: Yes, Senator Faulkner, we do have some information available. We have been taking it from forms and entering it into our computer system. If it is only of, say, the past two or three financial years, we should be able to extract that for you.

Senator RHIANNON: Very much so. I would agree with you. As we do not know the level of work, we should be mindful of it. We have talked before about how sometimes you do not have all the resources that you need. If it came down that you are not able to do it from 1999, I would then be requesting that there be some years before 2006 and some years after 2006. That would be very useful in helping us to analyse any trends.

Answer:

Year	Up to \$999	Between \$1,000 and \$4,999	Between \$4,999 and the threshold* for the reporting period	Above the threshold** for the reporting period
1998-99	468	964	382	526
1999-00	412	586	267	350
2000-01	569	854	327	474
2001-02	969	1287	482	583
2002-03	1305	1536	484	571
2003-04	1112	1305	428	503
2004-05	1503	1895	782	740
2005-06	484	770	223	345
2006-07	615	857	411	420
2007-08	565	969	524	582
2008-09	473	677	276	320
2009-10	549	685	261	241
2010-11	586	900	505	484
2011-12	369	568	297	251

* For the reporting periods 1998-99 through to 2005-06 the value \$9999 has been used

**For the reporting periods 1998-99 through to 2005-06 the disclosure threshold was \$1500. However, for these years the value \$10,000 has been used in this column as the threshold to provide comparison to later years.

Please note the above information has been compiled using only data disclosed by donors on their returns. This information does not include data from political party or associated entity returns.

Donors are required to report details of donations once they have made donations that cumulatively reach the disclosure threshold in relation to a particular political party. Once a donor has made donations that cumulatively reach the disclosure threshold, they are obliged to report details for all donations made to that particular political party.