

**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:** Indexation of disclosure thresholds

**Senator:** Faulkner

**Question reference number:** F61

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA page 50, 30 May 2013

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday 12 July 2013

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

You can correct me if I am wrong, but my recollection is that 1998 was the last year the Australian Electoral Commission actually proposed or recommended in submissions or in writing a disclosure threshold with a dollar limit. Can you confirm that?

**Answer:**

The AEC made recommendations in its Funding and Disclosure reports following the 1993, 1996 and 1998 federal elections for changes to specific thresholds that existed at those times. These recommendations were not in the nature of the AEC nominating what it considered to be a 'correct' or preferable threshold for particular disclosures to achieve the apparent parliamentary purpose of transparency and accountability. The recommendations made by the AEC were made in the context of the legislation existing at the time and were primarily aimed at simplifying compliance by seeking greater alignment between what were then a range of differing thresholds. These recommendations included raising to \$1,000 the thresholds for donations to candidates and for third parties incurring electoral expenditure which had remained at \$200 since the introduction of the disclosure scheme in 1984.