

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2006



Question: F64

Outcome 2, Output 2.1.2

Topic: Progress report on party deregistration

Written Question on Notice

Senator Murray asked:

With respect to the recent changes to the CEA concerning the registration of political parties, please provide a progress report on the following parties and their registration or re-registration status.

Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group);
Citizens Electoral Council of Australia;
Citizens Electoral Council Australia (NSW Division);
Help End Marijuana Prohibition;
Hope Party Australia – ethics equality ecology;
liberals for forests;
New Country Party;
No Goods and Services Tax Party;
Non-Custodial Parents Party;
People Power;
Progressive Labour Party;
Republican Party of Australia;
Socialist Alliance;
The Australian Shooters Party;
The Fishing Party;
The Great Australians.;
Nuclear Disarmament Party of Australia

And any other political parties whose registration status may not be automatically renewed.

Answer:

Schedule 3 of the *Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Electoral Integrity and Other Measures) Act 2006* required the deregistration on 27 December 2006 of all registered political parties that had not been able to claim an exemption from deregistration as a result of having had a member of the party or a related party elected to the federal parliament.

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The following 17 parties were deregistered on the basis that they had not submitted a claim for exemption from deregistration:

- Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group);
- Citizens Electoral Council of Australia;
- Citizens Electoral Council Australia (NSW Division);
- Help End Marijuana Prohibition;
- Hope Party Australia – ethics equality ecology;
- liberals for forests;
- New Country Party;
- No Goods and Services Tax Party;
- Non-Custodial Parents Party;
- People Power;
- Progressive Labour Party;
- Republican Party of Australia;
- Socialist Alliance;
- The Australian Shooters Party;
- The Fishing Party;
- The Great Australians; and
- the Queensland Greens.



Two further parties were deregistered because their claims for exemption on the basis of having had a member of the party or a related party elected to a previous federal parliament were rejected:

- One Nation Queensland Division; and
- One Nation Western Australia.

Three registered political parties submitted a claim for exemption from deregistration based on having a member of the party or a related party elected to a previous federal parliament and had their claims accepted:

- Democratic Labor Party (DLP) of Australia;
- Nuclear Disarmament Party of Australia; and
- Pauline Hanson's One Nation (NSW Division).

All other registered political parties are already exempt from deregistration as a result of successfully completing a review of their status as parliamentary parties under section 138A of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.