


White, Alex

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, 16 April 2008 9:22 PM
To: Lobbyists Register
Subject: Comments on the Exposure Draft

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Exposure Draft.

It would appear that the requirements set out in the draft relate entirely to the action initiated by the lobbyist.

What is the intention of the Government where the action is initiated by the "Government representative"? (ie a Minister, a Parliamentary Secretary, a person employed or engaged by a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*, an Agency Head or a person employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*, a person engaged as a contractor or consultant by an Australian Government agency whose staff are employed under the *Public Service Act 1999* or a member of the Australian Defence Force.)

In my experience as an industry, consumer and professional advocate I recall occasions when the "Government representatives" initiated contact with professional lobbyists to seek clarification on a particular issue, to encourage public support for Government policy or to discredit a particular view. In such instances there is potential for misleading information to be promoted without accountability.

Any code of conduct which requires a certain standard of behaviour from a "lobbyist" to ensure transparency must require a similar standard of behaviour from a "Government representative."

Lauchlan McIntosh AM

