

Senate F&PA Committee

Tabled Document

Inquiry: Supplementary... estimates 17-18  
Date/Time: Thursday 24 October 17  
Witness Name: Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz  
Organisation: .....

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** Would be the end of GetUp as we know it

**Date:** Sun, 22 Oct 2017 21:15:48 +0000 (UTC)

**From:** Paul – GetUp! <[info@getup.org.au](mailto:info@getup.org.au)>

**Reply-To:** [contact@getup.org.au](mailto:contact@getup.org.au)

Dear [REDACTED],

**This is the greatest threat our independent, grassroots movement has ever faced.**

Hard-right forces led by Senator Eric Abetz are pushing a twisted government investigation to attack your place in Australia's politics and diminish our collective power.<sup>1</sup>

They're trying to use the threat of *criminal penalties* to force GetUp into becoming an "associated entity" of Labor and the Greens, when not a single dollar has *ever* been exchanged between GetUp and *any* political party. **We can't submit to their lie — even if it means facing off in court.**

As GetUp members, we act for the benefit of millions of everyday Australians — not politicians or parties. We ensure our hospitals and schools are funded, our climate is safe and our society is just, without fear or favour.

**Now the hard right want to convict us for caring about our country.**

To match their government-funded attack we need the legal firepower of an experienced law firm and one of the most respected barristers in the country. **Can you help in the greatest hour of need for our independent movement?**

**[Chip in \\$12 for lawyers, barristers and more to protect our power as an independent movement — all the way to court, if necessary.](#)**

Groups who fund and directly associate with political parties are subject to criminal penalties if they don't declare it. Twice before, Senator Abetz pushed the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to review our independence. Twice before, he came up empty.

**But this time is different.** The AEC's preliminary review seems stacked against us, with cherry-picked facts and twisted legal interpretations. They've refused to meet with us, refused to answer essential questions and refused to engage with our robust response.

**And if you're wondering why this is happening, one of the first things highlighted in the AEC's letter is our run-ins with Peter Dutton.**

Dutton and Abetz have the power and resources of the federal government at their disposal. Can you make sure we have the legal resources we need to fight back?

**[Chip in \\$12 to fund the legal fight to protect our power as an independent movement of everyday Australians.](#)**

**Former Human Rights Commissioner Gillian Triggs recently warned the public about government-led attacks on civil society, with GetUp as a specific target.<sup>2</sup>**

Imposing big legal expenses is a well-known tactic to take advocacy groups away from their campaign work. Already we've needed considerable legal assistance and advice from barristers, with costs mounting. If this goes all the way to court, those expenses will skyrocket.

We shouldn't spend one minute less campaigning for a more fair, flourishing and just Australia because of this trumped-up attack. **But we need thousands of members to chip in today to cover these considerable legal costs and keep us campaigning for what's right.**

**[Chip in \\$12 to to keep us kicking down the doors of power and privilege.](#)**

This movement is nothing without you, and everything with you. I've never been prouder to be part of it.

Thanks you all you do,  
Paul, for the GetUp Team

References:

[1] "Labor links expose GetUp! as a 'front'", *The Australian*, 19 October 2017.

[2] Gillian Triggs says Australia's politicians leading 'assault' on democratic ideals', *The Guardian*, 8 June 2017.

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GetUp is an independent, not-for-profit community campaigning group. We use new technology to empower Australians to have their say on important national issues. We receive no political party or government funding, and every campaign we run is entirely supported by voluntary donations. If you'd like to contribute to help fund GetUp's work, please [donate now!](#) This email was sent to [REDACTED]. To unsubscribe this email address from GetUp, please click [here](#).

**Our team acknowledges that we meet and work on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We wish to pay respect to their Elders - past, present and future - and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within Australia and the GetUp community.**

Authorised by Paul Oosting, Level 14, 338 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000.