



Australian Council of Social Service

04 April 2018

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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To whom it may concern,

Submission by the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in response to questions taken on notice during examination of 16 February 2018

1. We write in response to questions taken on notice during the examination of Dr Cassandra Goldie (ACOSS CEO) and Mr John Mikelsons (ACOSS Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer) on 16 February 2018. On that date, Dr Goldie and Mr Mikelsons appeared before the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (**the Committee**) in relation to ACOSS's submission on the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017 (the Bill)*.
2. During that examination, Senator Leyonhjelm asked Dr Goldie two questions that were taken on notice:
 - (a) Does ACOSS lodge a return under s 314AEB of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth) (**the Act**)?
 - (b) Does ACOSS comply with s 314AEB of the Act (as it was at 16 February 2018)?
3. ACOSS agreed to provide a response to those questions by 28 March 2018. This deadline was subsequently extended to 4 April 2018. Although the latter question is ultimately a question of law, please find our answers below.
4. The response to the question at 2(a) is no.
5. The response to the question at 2(b) is yes.
6. We would be happy to provide the Committee with further information upon request.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Cassandra Goldie
ACOSS CEO