



Child Protection Party

Submission on the:

**Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Lowering the Donation Disclosure
Threshold) Bill 2019**

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1. Reducing Reporting Threshold

The Child Protection Party has no objections to the reduction in the reporting threshold proposed.

2. Indexation of Reporting Threshold

The Child Protection Party has no objections to the removal of the indexation of reporting threshold.

Removal of the indexation will:

- a. Remove the need for the Australian Electoral Commission to notify political parties of the annual change to the reporting threshold.
- b. Remove any confusion from political parties about what the reporting threshold is year on year.

3. Transparency

The Child Protection Party does not accept the claim that the change will improve public confidence in the political system.

In order to have a positive impact upon the public perception of the political system, the Child Protection Party believes that the Bill should introduce the following changes:

- a. A cap should be placed upon the amount an individual can donate in a year.
 - i. In the 2018/2019 financial year, one Adam Blumenthal donated \$110,000 to the Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division.
 - ii. In the 2016/2017 financial year, Malcolm Turnbull donated \$1.750,000 to the Liberal Party.
 - iii. The Child Protection Party suggests a cap of \$5000.
- b. A cap should be placed upon the amount an organisation can donate in a year.
 - i. In the 2018/2019 financial year, Mineralogy Pty Ltd donated \$83,681,442 to the United Australia Party.
 - ii. In the 2019/2020 financial year, the CFMEU donated \$1,014,500 to the Australian Labor Party.
 - iii. The Child Protection Party suggests a cap of \$100,000.
- c. The figures quoted above come from the Transparency Register at <https://transparency.aec.gov.au/AnnualPoliticalParty>

- d. Indirect donations should be capped and also reportable. An indirect donation would be an individual or organisation paying for advertising that implicitly supports one party over another.
 - i. **Example 1:** A coal mining company pays for a series of prime time television advertisements promoting the use of “clean” coal in power stations.
 - ii. **Example 2:** A trade union pays for a series of prime time television advertisements promoting an increase in weekend overtime rates for workers.
- e. It is the Child Protection Party’s belief that no reasonable person would fail to recognise that both sets of advertisements showed support for a particular party’s position on the subject of the advertisement and are, therefore, indirect donations.
- f. To further enhance transparency, the Child Protection Party believes that:
 - i. All returns must state the purpose for which the donation was made. For example, “To pay the candidacy fees for John Doe”.
 - ii. All returns must state whether the donor approached or was approached by the political party.
 - iii. the Donor Register should be made available on the Home page of the AEC website since that would make it much easier for the public to find.

Signed:



Date: 14 Feb 2020

Avery Hilditch
Secretary
Child Protection Party.