



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2016 Federal Election and matters related thereto

Issue date: 7 September 2017

Discussion paper on political donations

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters is conducting a review into political donations as part of its inquiry into the conduct of the 2016 election.

Key dates

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Submissions</i> | Due by close of business Friday 29 September 2017 |
| <i>Public hearings</i> | 15 September, 20 October 2017 and further dates as required |

The Committee has now published a [discussion paper](#) on the issues it will be considering. It provides additional guidance for those preparing a submission or seeking to give evidence at the public hearings on questions the Committee seeks to answer.

“JSCEM deliberations and recommendations are always informed by the democratic principles of freedom of speech and freedom of political communication,” Committee Chair Senator Linda Reynolds said. “Submissions and representations are encouraged from interested individuals and organisations.”

The discussion paper notes that a healthy democracy requires active and robust public political debate, which is neither free nor cheap. The paper identifies three broad options for donations that the inquiry will examine and report on:

- Personal funding from candidates financially supporting their own campaigns.
- Private funding from small and large donors of cash and in-kind support.
- Public funding from taxpayer-funded payments to political parties and candidates.

The discussion paper expands on these and other points of interest to the Committee.

The due date for submissions has been extended until close of business Friday 29 September 2017. Submissions must address the [terms of reference](#).

For more information about the inquiry and how to lodge a submission visit <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>.

Enquiries:

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