

2 October 2017

## **Submission to the Senate Select Committee into the Political Influence on Donations**

Mr Turnbull's approach to repairing energy markets: "*Shine a light on what has been a very opaque industry...*", applies equally to repairing our democracy.

Recently, federal and state politicians, in both major parties, (including Local Government), have lost political capital and credibility through donations.

This is an opportune time to repair the democratic process through **DONATION REFORM** and **CORRUPTION CONTROL**.

### **DONATION REFORM**

Four principles are suggested, **Capture, Transparency, Cap** and **Consequences**.

#### **Capture**

The source entity identified for ALL INCOME - "funds", received by political parties, individual candidates and Members of Parliament. This includes: "Electoral Committees", \$10,000 per head dinners, Unincorporated Bodies. All income is the starting point with "exceptions" defined and contained in legislation.

#### **Transparency**

Technology enabled process to report ALL INCOME (less any legislated exceptions), to the Electoral Commission within five working days, and immediately posted on a public website managed by the Electoral Commission.

#### **Cap**

Limit donations to a maximum figure sum for individuals, corporations and other entities; following models in some Nordic Countries.

#### **Consequences**

All political parties outline a transparent process of dealing with politicians under investigation and found guilty of corruption through ICAC.

### **CORRUPTION CONTROL**

#### **ICAC**

Establish an ICAC for Federal Government. An independent, properly constituted body to examine corruption. It must avoid the Victorian Liberal party IBAC initiative that basically excludes politicians from examination.

I believe the current political climate is:

- supporting vested interests controlling the agenda of political parties
- undermining faith in our political system as representative and democratic
- fuelling an increase in disaffected voters who feel marginalized (especially young voters)

It's time, for all political parties to work together to build a framework for transparent and accountable democracy.

Yours faithfully,

**Nina Christesen**