

Media Release

GG 33/11
01 August 2011

Changes to Lobbyists Register

The Special Minister of State for the Public Service and Integrity Gary Gray today announced changes to the Australian Government Lobbying Code of Conduct and the Register of Lobbyists.

The Labor Australian Government confirmed its commitment to implement Australia's first ever Commonwealth Lobbying Code of Conduct and public Lobbyists Register following its election in 2007.

“The changes I announce today are informed by responses to the discussion paper on possible reforms to the Code released in July 2010 by the then Cabinet Secretary and Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig”, Mr Gray said.

The changes will take effect from 1 August 2011.

After reflecting on the matters raised in the course of the review, the Government is satisfied that the Code and Register as they currently stand operate effectively, with appropriate coverage and reach.

The review did identify two areas in which the operation of the Code and Register could be improved.

First, to enhance openness and transparency, the Government will require lobbyists to disclose on the Register the details of any former government representatives employed by their firm as lobbyists.

Second, measures will be introduced to streamline the regulatory and administrative arrangements for registration:

- signed statutory declarations submitted for registration purposes will be accepted in electronic or faxed form, without the need to also provide the original document; and
- regular updates will only be required twice yearly instead of quarterly, with the continuing requirement for any change to the lobbyist's details to be made as soon as practicable and within 10 business days after the change occurs.

“These changes strengthen the operations of the Commonwealth register and provide further transparency in the lobbying sector as well as aligning with administrative arrangements already applied by most state registers of lobbyists,” said Mr Gray.

“All registered lobbyists will continue to be required to provide updated statutory declarations once per year, and they will remain obliged to update entries within ten business days if there is any change to their details, including to their lists of clients.”

You can visit the Register of Lobbyists website at <http://lobbyists.pmc.gov.au/>

Website:

www.smos.gov.au