

06/11/2020

Submission to Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Banning Dirty Donations) Bill 2020

I believe the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Banning Dirty Donations) Bill is an important and extremely relevant piece of legislation that will help to shape the integrity of Australian politics in the future.

Given the multitude of political scandals that have occurred in 2020 alone, there is no better time than now to have an inquiry into a Bill that seeks to stop corruption by banning dirty donations.

From my own experience, I have often felt completely disenfranchised with the current political situation. Watching many within the federal government choose to represent the interests of sectors like the mining industry above the people they were elected to represent is very demoralising. Sometimes the situation feels overwhelming, how can individuals compete with multi-billion-dollar entities such as the mining, pharmaceutical, and banking industries? That is why this Bill is so important. Banning donations from these politically intrusive industries will surely decrease their influence over government legislation. I also commend the \$3,000 cumulative limit on donations from any source per election term, as this will serve to minimise the influence of large corporations over legislation and policymaking.

If a government is to represent people and not corporations, we must ensure we have adequate legislation to protect the interests of the people against the political interference dirty donations create. The activities, policies, and legislation of government should not be able to be bought, it should not come down to whose interests are more financially lucrative to represent. Furthermore, this Bill will ensure better representation in political candidates by attracting those with good intentions for their community and dissuading those seeking financial gain via dirty donations and corruption.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Kind regards,

Daisy Norfolk.