

9th October, 2016

Madam Linda Reynolds
Committee Chair,
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters.

Electorate Office,
26 Charles Street,
South Perth, W.A. 6151

P.O. Box 984,
South Perth, W.A. 6951

Email: em@aph.gov.au

Dear Linda,

The Australian Electoral Commission recommended and suggested I write to you with hope you will with your position as Committee Chair, take on board my request to help us Australian tax payers have the following parliamentary privileges ceased.

1. Stop political candidates, irrespective of success or failure in general elections from receiving Australian tax payer funding of any persuasion or amount, including the 4% and above of election votes achieved, within the electorate they are candidates for.

What that 4% funding amounts to is, candidates being payed to apply for employment as representatives in parliament of the specific electoral district they seek election to. To be payed the 4% is seriously wrong, immoral, unfair, unjust, un Australian, unjustified and to make it even worse, payed even if they are unsuccessful at the election.

No ordinary Australian tax payer is payed to apply for employment, all their application costs are at their own cost, win or lose.

At the last Federal General election, the national liberal Party pocketed some \$ 55 million dollars and the Federal Labor Party pocketed slightly less, simply as they were unsuccessful in achieving the required amount of votes to be elevated to govern.

That money is only part of what we tax payers paid political candidates nation- wide and I can only guess we as tax payers have now lost for ever, well over \$ 120 million, in one election and that figure can be multiplied many times over for all the previous general elections and By Elections held, never ever to be seen again by tax payers for use to provide public / tax payer funded projects including new schools, hospitals, major roads and transport networks, helping the vulnerable, sick and elderly in the community and many other extremely worthwhile projects, who no doubt have contributed considerably to our tax treasury over a life time in work performed for the general economy.

One politician has made a living from committing to being a political candidate, who was successful in the first campaign and unsuccessful in following campaigns, and successful in the last general election, but pocketed some \$ 200,000 in each campaign, simply by achieving the 4% vote

threshold. That money is tax free to the recipient, so not only do they get paid to apply for employment, they also pay no taxes from that payout, to help other ordinary Australian citizens.
WRONG !!!

I can imagine, you can easily say / think, why would I vote to cease a financial system I am a beneficiary to, it is simply a case of you accepting along with all your parliamentary colleagues that this payout to candidates is wrong and seriously immoral, make the changes in parliament and allow all Australians to benefit from that money.

2. Current sitting politicians who decide “ mid - term “ between general elections, “ I've had enough of being in parliament, I am resigning to do other things in my life “, if they do resign, retire for what ever reason mid - term “, by leaving parliament mid - term, they create a By Election for the electorate they vacate, By Elections cost tax payers a considerable fortune in the millions of dollars.

We electors elect our members for the full term of parliament and expect to either re - elect them or elect another candidate at the next scheduled general election, we don't elect candidates to only part serve a full term of parliament.

So if a sitting politician decided to leave parliament for their own private reason “ mid - term “, they become financially responsible for the By Election they have created.

If that doesn't suit them for what ever reason probably including the huge financial cost, the other option they have is, remain in parliament and do not seek re - election at the next general election. The cost of the by election would no doubt pay for other much needed tax payer funded public projects with in that electorate or even further afield.

Linda, I am very passionate about these two tax payer issues and there are more than these two, including tax payers being held responsible for past / retired politicians daily life costs and passions including un limited travel, those perks also must and have to stop.

Your attention to these matters for not only myself but all Australian citizens is vital and will be greatly appreciated.

We also will appreciate it if you don't tell me, this is not to do with you and you have no idea who would deal with it.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest.

Regards
Allan Oakes
Falcon, W.A.