LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA

Federal Director

27th April 2016

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

Department of the Senate Parliament House Canberra, ACT 2600

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission on behalf of the Liberal Party of Australia.

Introduction

The Federal Secretariat is the coordinating body for submissions relating to Commonwealth electoral laws and the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) usually through the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) of the Commonwealth Parliament.

There has only been very limited time to prepare this submission and to consult stakeholders as extensively as would be usual with a JSCEM process.

Terms of reference

The terms of reference of this inquiry are set out below:

"Commonwealth legislative provisions relating to oversight of associated entities of political parties, with particular reference to the adequacy of:

- (a) The funding and disclosure regime relating to annual returns;
- (b) The powers of the Australian Electoral Commission with respect to supervision of the conduct of, and reporting by, associated entities of political parties; and
- (c) Any related matters; and



That the Senate direct Senator Sinodinos to appear before the committee to answer questions."

AEC

To assist the Committee I would make the following points.

Firstly, the Federal Secretariat has a good working relationship with the AEC.

We respond promptly to any AEC inquiry and have no outstanding matters in dispute with the AEC at present.

While issues can and do arise from time to time, as a general observation, we believe that the AEC is a highly competent and professional organisation and in particular that it conducts its funding and disclosure obligations fairly and efficiently.

Where there are any points of clarification or additional information required by the AEC we work constructively with them to resolve such matters according to law.

Funding and Disclosure

Secondly, in our view the current arrangements set out in the Electoral Act for the funding and disclosure regime in general and for annual returns by parties and other entities in particular works adequately.

Before any significant change were to be contemplated we believe there would have to be a strong case and a thorough review by the established Parliamentary body, the JSCEM.

One area of modest but sensible reform for instance would be to have greater clarity in the form information is being disclosed. At present the categories (a) donations or (b) other income can be confusing as "other income" picks up numerous different categories which might be more accurately characterised.

Associated Entities

There are 192 "associated entities" for political parties of all kinds listed on the AEC website for the 2014-15 year.

A copy of that list is attached.

"An associated entity" is defined by section 287 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* as an entity:

- that is controlled by one or more registered political parties; or
- that operates wholly, or to a significant extent, for the benefit of one or more registered political parties; or
- that is a financial member of a registered political party; or
- on whose behalf another person is a financial member or a registered political party; or
- that has voting rights in a registered political party; or
- on whose behalf another person has voting rights in a registered political party.

Given the definition a wide range of bodies are declared by the AEC as "associated entities".

Each has its own structure and varying degrees of complexity in its governing framework. Its officers may include staff depending on the nature of the body concerned.

Some associated entities are essentially investment structures holding property shares and cash and are either closely associated with or essentially "owned" by a political party or parties for instance through appointment of their management body by the state or federal executive of a party.

Others are more independent and some are completely independent in their management and decision making albeit directing funds to one side or another of Australian politics consistent with a broad philosophy.

Some receive donations; others essentially manage a corpus of existing assets paying part of the proceeds in support of organisations they wish to assist.

Some have small boards of management and membership; others have elaborate internal structures and much larger memberships arising from a wider role in the community such as a union.

Some associated entities support a variety of parties and may change their pattern of financial assistance over time. Some largely support only political parties; others also contribute funds to non party bodies such as think tanks and independent public policy bodies unaffiliated with political parties.

Some are administered professionally by paid staff or directors and have access to sophisticated legal and accounting advice to meet their compliance obligations and others are essentially volunteer bodies who undertake their compliance obligations without recourse to professional advice.

Commonwealth legislative provisions relating to oversight of associated entities of political parties Submission 4

Some of these bodies have considerable financial resources. They receive and disperse reasonably substantial sums of money and others have only relatively small sums of money

either in their asset base or in the capacity to make specific payments to political parties.

As a general observation we believe that the current regime is adequate and carries out the

obligations set out in the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

Subject to compliance, we also believe in encouraging engagement with the democratic

political system by a wide cross section of our society.

Our capacity to make detailed recommendations on such short notice covering such a

diverse group of entities is obviously limited.

In the first instance the AEC will be able to advise the Committee if it has any particular

compliance difficulties with the "associated entities" they supervise.

As noted earlier the Federal Secretariat of the Liberal Party of Australia works constructively

with the AEC to ensure we comply with the law and assist the AEC in the conduct of its

duties.

If there are particular matters within the jurisdiction of this Parliament that I can assist with

please do not hesitate to identify them and I will seek to assist the Committee if possible.

Yours sincerely

Tony Nutt

Skip to contentContact us | Media centre | About us | Employment |

Australian Electoral Commission

 \odot

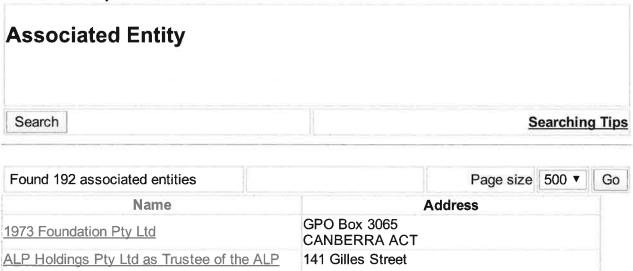
Election Returns

Annual Returns

- Year...
 2014-15 ▼ Go
- About
- Search
 - Party
 - Party Group
 - Donor
 - Associated Entity
 - Political Expenditure
 - All
- Summary
 - Party
 - Donor By Party
 - Donor By Group
 - Associated Entity
 - Political Expenditure
- Analysis
 - Party
 - Party Group
 - Donor
 - Associated Entity
 - Political Expenditure
- Glossary
- Updates

_

Associated Entity Annual Return Search - 2014-15



4/27/2016 As Southarted Still 1017 - 4 Annual Returns Investment Trust ADELAIDE SA Altum Pty Ltd as Trustee for Altum Property PO Box 637 **Unit Trust** CALOUNDRA QLD Altum Pty Ltd as Trustee for the Altum Head PO Box 637 Quarters Trust CALOUNDRA QLD ASU - NSW Local Government Clerical Level 7, 321 Pitt Street Administrative Energy Airlin SYDNEY NSW PO Box 447 ASU Victorian Private Sector Branch CARLTON SOUTH VIC Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union -PO Box 2263 Newcastle & Norther DANGAR NSW 3 / 190 George St Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union -**NSW Branch** PARRAMATTA NSW Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union - Level 1 39 Lytton Road QLD Branch EAST BRISBANE QLD Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union 237 Wellington Street (Tasmanian Branch) LAUNCESTON TAS Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union 227 Henley Beach Road TORRENSVILLE SA SA & WA Branch Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union 2/62 Lygon St CARLTON SOUTH VIC Victorian Branch Australian Institute of Marine and Power 52 Buckingham Street Engineers SURRY HILLS NSW PO Box 6222 Australian Labor Party (Legacies and Gifts) Ltd KINGSTON ACT PO Box K408 Australian Labor Party (NSW) Gifts Pty Ltd HAYMARKET NSW Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical PO Box 3347 and Services Unio SOUTH BRISBANE QLD Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical PO Box 3272 and Services Unio SOUTH BRISBANE BC OLD Australian Rail Tram & Bus Industry Union 1/457 Upper Edward Street **BRISBANE QLD** (QLD) Australian Rail Tram & Bus Industry Union Level 4 321 Pitt Street **NSW Branch** SYDNEY NSW Australian Rail Tram & Bus Industry Union PO Box 195 SA/NT WOODVILLE SA Australian Rail Tram & Bus Union (Victorian Level 2 365 Queen St Branch) MELBOURNE VIC Australian Rail Tram and Bus Industry Union 2/10 Nash Street Western Australian B PERTH WA Australian Rail, Tram & Bus Industry - TAS PO Box 682 **Branch** MOONAH TAS Australian Services Union - Victorian & PO Box 37 Tasmanian Authorities & CARLTON SOUTH VIC Australian Services Union NSW & ACT P.O. Box 1865 Services Branch STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW PO Box 2217 Australian Services Union SA - NT Branch KENT TOWN SA GPO Box 2577 Australian Workers Union SA Branch ADELAIDE SA PO Box 8122 Perth Business Centre Australian Workers Union WA Branch PERTH WA Automotive Food Metals Engineering Printing & PO Box 160 Kindred Ind. Union GRANVILLE NSW Automotive Food Metals Engineering Printing & PO BOX 160 Kindred Industries GRANVILLE NSW Automotive Food Metals Engineering Printing & PO BOX 13006 GEORGE ST Kindred Industries **BRISBANE QLD**

772010	7.5050000000000000000000000000000000000
AWU - Australian Workers Union (Tasmanian Branch)	PO Box 129 NORTH HOBART TAS
AWU Port Kembla Branch	PO Box 1506 WOLLONGONG NSW
Bass 200 Club	P.O. Box 431 WONTHAGGI VIC
Bayside Forum	2 Banool Street CHELTENHAM VIC
Bendigo 250 Club	PO Box 1046 BENDIGO VIC
Berwick Ranges 500 Club	PO Box 280 NARRE WARREN VIC
Blind Workers Union of Victoria	106 Seymour Street SOLDIERS HILL VIC
Bunori Pty Limited	Locked Bag 2 KINGS CROSS NSW
Business First	P.O. Box 35 CHELSEA VIC
Campaign for Australian Constitutional Change	PO Box 843 CASTLE HILL NSW
Canberra Labor Club Limited	PO Box 167 BELCONNEN ACT
Caulfield Challenge 200 Club	Suite 9ABC Level 9 443-449 Toorak Road TOORAK VIC
CEC Australia (Services) Pty Ltd	PO Box 376 COBURG VIC
CEPU - Electrical Division QLD & NT	PO Box 3520 SOUTH BRISBANE QLD
CEPU (T&S) NSW Branch	Suite 1b, Level 1, 57-59 Renwick Street LEICHHARDT NSW
CEPU Communications Division - WA	PO Box 8354 PERTH BC WA
CEPU Communications Division (CWU QLD Branch)	PO Box 3203 WEST END QLD
CEPU Communications Division SA/NT Branch	312 South Road RICHMOND SA
CEPU Electrical, Energy & Services Division - SA	312 South Road RICHMOND SA
CEPU Engineering & Electrical Division	PO Box 689 BALCATTA WA
CEPU P & T Victorian Branch	PO Box 14 BRUNSWICK WEST VIC
CEPU Plumbing Division - NSW (CEPU of Australia NSW Branch)	Shop 1, 111 McEvoy Street ALEXANDRIA NSW
CEPU Plumbing Division Queensland Branch	PO Box 3596 SOUTH BRISBANE QLD
CEPU Plumbing Division Victoria	52 Victoria Street CARLTON SOUTH VIC
CFMEU - Construction & General Division (WA Branch)	P.O. Box 8075 PERTH BC WA
CFMEU Construction & General Division VIC/TAS Branch	500 Swanston St CARLTON SOUTH VIC
CFMEU Construction and General Division, New South Wales Divisio	Locked Bag 1 LIDCOMBE NSW
CFMEU FFPD New South Wales District	Level 1, 10-12 Railway Street LIDCOMBE NSW
CFMEU FFPD South Australia District	Level 2, 32 South Terrace ADELAIDE SA

/27/2016	As additional Returns
CFMEU FFPD Tasmanian District	237 Wellington Street LAUNCESTON TAS
CFMEU FFPD Victorian District	148-152 Miller Street WEST MELBOURNE VIC
CFMEU Mining & Energy Division (Qld District Branch)	PO Box 508 SPRING HILL QLD
CFMEU Northern Mining & NSW Energy District	PO Box 364 CESSNOCK NSW
Chinese Liberals Association	PO Box 568 CARNEGIE VIC
Citizens Media Group Pty Ltd	PO Box 376 COBURG VIC
CLP Gifts & Legacies Pty Ltd	PO Box 199 DARWIN NT
Coal Miners Industrial Union of Workers of WA Collie	75 Throssell Street COLLIE WA
Communications Electrical Plumbing Union NSW P & T Branch	PO Box 250 PARRAMATTA NSW
Community and Public Sector Union (PSU Group)	Level 6 191-199 Thomas Street HAYMARKET NSW
Construction Forestry Mining & Energy. Industrial Union of Emplo	16 Campbell Street BOWEN HILLS QLD
Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union - ACT	PO Box 498 DICKSON ACT
Cormack Foundation Pty Ltd	25 St James Park Drive BRIGHTON VIC
Dame Pattie Menzies Liberal Foundation	Locked Bag 2 Kings Cross NSW
<u>Dunkley Blue Ribbon Club</u>	PO Box 696 FRANKSTON VIC
Electrical Trades Union of Australia NSW Branch	Level 5/370 Pitt Street SYDNEY NSW
Electrical Trades Union of Employees Queensland	PO Box 3520 SOUTH BRISBANE QLD
EMILY's List Australia	Level 2, Queen Victoria Women's Centre 210 Lonsdale Street MELBOURNE VIC
Enterprise Club	PO Box 206 HAMPTON PARK VIC
Finance Sector Union of Aust - QLD Branch	PO Box 3054 SOUTH BRISBANE QLD
Finance Sector Union of Aust - SA/NT Branch	Level 1 229 Greenhill Road DULWICH SA
<u>Finance Sector Union of Australia - NSW</u> <u>Branch</u>	PO Box A2442 SYDNEY SOUTH NSW
Finance Sector Union of Australia - VIC/TAS Branch	341 Queen Street MELBOURNE VIC
Finance Sector Union of Australia - WA Branch	PO Box 2602 PERTH WA
Flight Attendants Association of Australia - National Division	Unit 18, 538 Gardeners Road ALEXANDRIA NSW
Foundation 51 Pty Ltd	Post Office Box 199 DARWIN NT
Gatenby Investment fund	GPO Box 469 HOBART TAS
Goulburn River & Ranges 200 Club	P.O. Box 104 ALEXANDRA VIC
Health & Community Services Union Vic No. 2 HSU	PO Box 206 CARLTON SOUTH VIC

<u>Health Services Union of Australia - SA/NT</u> <u>Branch</u>	170 Greenhill Road PARKSIDE SA
Health Services Union, Tasmania No.1 Branch	PO Box 473 NORTH HOBART TAS
Higgins 200 Club	PO Box 5114 HUGHESDALE VIC
Higgins 200 Foundation Ltd	PO Box 24196 MELBOURNE VIC
Industrial Staff Union	160 Clarence St SYDNEY NSW
John Curtin House Limited	PO Box 6222 KINGSTON ACT
John McEwen House Pty Ltd	PO Box 6190 KINGSTON ACT
Kaye Sutherland Memorial Bequest Fund	141 Gilles Street ADELAIDE SA
Kooyong 200 Club	PO Box 2180 HAWTHORN VIC
Labor Campaign Pty Ltd	PO Box K408 HAYMARKET NSW
Labor Holdings Pty Ltd	16 Peel St SOUTH BRISBANE QLD
Labor Services & Holding Pty Ltd ATF the Labor Services and Hold	438 Docklands Drive DOCKLANDS VIC
Land Value Taxation Society of Australia	PO Box 843 CASTLE HILL NSW
Liberal Asset Management (Custodians) Limited	Locked Bag 2 KINGS CROSS NSW
Liberal Club Limited	PO Box 556 TORRENSVILLE PLAZA SA
Liberal Properties Limited	Locked Bag 2 KINGS CROSS NSW
LNP Nominees Pty Ltd as Trustee for the 6 St Paul's Unit Trust	PO Box 637 CALOUNDRA QLD
LPPH Pty Ltd	PO Box 49 WEST PERTH WA
Macedon Speakers Club	141 Garth Road CARLSRUHE VIC
Mallen's Colac Hotel Pty Ltd	141 Gilles Street ADELAIDE SA
Maritime Union of Australia	Level 2 365 - 375 Sussex Street SYDNEY NSW
Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance	PO Box 723 STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW
Mehring Books Pty Ltd	PO Box 574 STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW
Menzies 200 Club	PO Box 583 DONCASTER VIC
Mornington Gold	C/o 321 Main Street MORNINGTON VIC
Murray 250 Club	PO Box 250 SHEPPARTON VIC
National Union of Workers - General Branch	P.O. Box 343 NORTH MELBOURNE VIC
National Union of Workers - National Office	P.O. Box 343 NORTH MELBOURNE VIC
National Union of Workers - NSW Branch	3-5 Bridge Street GRANVILLE NSW

2//2016	ASSOCIATEOGRAPHICA - PANNUAL Returns
National Union of Workers - Victorian Branch	833 Bourke Street DOCKLANDS VIC
New South Wales Local Government Clerical Administrative Energy	Level 7, 321 Pitt Street SYDNEY NSW
North Eastern Business Circle	169 Westgarth St NORTHCOTE VIC
North West 200 Club	PO Box 561 MOONEE PONDS VIC
Northern Territory ALP Investment Trust	PO Box 390 BOOVAL QLD
NSW Labor Campaign Investment Pty Ltd	PO Box K408 HAYMARKET NSW
NTN Services	PO Box 55 MOOROOKA QLD
OUTER EASTER platinum club	PO Box 2080 BAYSWATER VIC
Parakeelia Pty Ltd	PO Box 6004 KINGSTON ACT
Parliamentary Liberal Party Communication (Victoria)	1/667 Glen Huntly Rd CAULFIELD VIC
Perth Trades Hall Inc	PO Box 8117 PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE WA
Pilliwinks Pty Ltd as Trustee National Party Foundation	Level 5, 30 Collins Street MELBOURNE VIC
Progressive Business Association Inc	Suite 1, Level 2 190 Queen Street MELBOURNE VIC
Queensland Services, Industrial Union of Employees	PO Box 3347 SOUTH BRISBANE QLD
Ripon 250 Club	62 McKinlay Street LANDSBOROUGH VIC
SA Progressive Business Incorporated	141 Gilles Street ADELAIDE SA
Scoresby City Club	PO Box 4011 KNOX CITY CENTRE VIC
Shop Assistants & Warehouse Employees' Federation of Australia-N	PO Box 2211 NEWCASTLE WEST NSW
Shop Distributive & Allied Employees' Asn. NSW Deductions A/C Of	PO Box K230 HAYMARKET NSW
Shop Distributive & Allied Employees Association - Tasmanian Bra	72 York Street LAUNCESTON TAS
Shop Distributive & Allied Employees Association - VIC Branch	65 Southbank Boulevard SOUTHBANK VIC
Shop Distributive & Allied Employees Association (Federal Regist	1/69 Fullarton Road KENT TOWN SA
Shop Distributive & Allied Employees' Association NSW Branch	PO Box K230 HAYMARKET NSW
Shop Distributive & Allied Employees' Association of Western Aus	5th Floor, 25 Barrack Street PERTH WA
Shop Distributive & Allied Employees Association South Australia	1/69 Fullarton Road KENT TOWN SA
Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association (QLD Branch)	PO Box 490 SPRING HILL QLD
Shop, Distributive & Allied Employees' Association - National	Sixth Floor 53 Queen Street MELBOURNE VIC
Sir Charles Court Foundation	PO Box 887 INNALOO WA
<u> </u>	C/- Phillip McGinnes PO Box 6127 HAWTHORN WEST VIC
Textile Clothing and Footwear Union of Aust -	28 Anglo Road

CAMPSIE NSW PO Box 441 CARLTON SOUTH VIC PO Box 7556 Cloisters Square PERTH WA
CARLTON SOUTH VIC PO Box 7556 Cloisters Square
PO Box 20 GRANVILLE NSW
PO Box 226 MAYFIELD NSW
GPO Box 88 BRISBANE QLD
685 Spencer Street WEST MELBOURNE VIC
PO Box 1455 CANNING VALE WA
PO Box 6222 KINGSTON ACT
PO Box 376 BAULKHAM HILLS NSW
5th Floor, 25 Barrack Street PERTH WA
PO Box 292 CANBERRA ACT
PO Box 3101 BAREENA VIC
GPO Box 557 CANBERRA ACT
PO Box 52 DEAKIN WEST ACT
104 Greenhill Road UNLEY SA
GPO Box 20 ADELAIDE SA
PO Box 49 WEST PERTH WA
PO Box 6004 KINGSTON ACT
PO Box 2688 MOUNT WAVERLEY VIC
P.O. Box 2208 Rosebud Plaza ROSEBUD VIC
PO Box 6190 KINGSTON ACT
PO Box 1387 MONA VALE NSW
5 Greenway Court MARYBOROUGH QLD
PO Box 8497 Perth Business Centre PERTH WA
Level 2, 388-390 Sussex St SYDNEY SOUTH NSW
PO Box 649 PARRAMATTA NSW
PO Box 452 CANNON HILL QLD
PO Box 137 WELLAND SA

27/2016	As Subbanatasาด กุ -4Annual Returns
Transport Workers Union of New South Wales	PARRAMATTA NSW
Transport Workers Union VIC/TAS Branch	PO Box 203 PORT MELBOURNE VIC
United Firefighters Union of Australia Qld Branch	Ground Floor 286 Montague Road WEST END QLD
<u>United Firefighters Union of Australia TAS</u> <u>Branch</u>	PO Box 20 NORTH HOBART TAS
United Firefighters Union of Australia VIC	410 Brunswick Street FITZROY VIC
United Firefighters Union of Australia West Australian Branch	21 View Street NORTH PERTH WA
United Firefighters Union of SA	PO box 289 TORRENSVILLE PLAZA SA
United Voice	Locked Bag 9 HAYMARKET NSW
UNITED VOICE NSW BRANCH	LOCKED BAG 7 HAYMARKET NSW
UNITED VOICE QLD BRANCH	PO BOX 3948 STH BRISBANE BC QLD
United Voice South Australia Branch	PO Box 220 TORRENSVILLE PLAZA SA
UNITED VOICE VIC BRANCH	PO BOX 327 NORTH MELBOURNE VIC
UNITED VOICE WA BRANCH	PO BOX 414 SUBIACO PO WA
Vapold Pty Ltd	104 Exhibition Street MELBOURNE VIC
<u>Western Australian Prison Officers' Union of</u> <u>Workers</u>	63 Railway Parade MT LAWLEY WA
YLNP No. 1 Ltd (James Killen Foundation)	235 Sandgate Road ALBION BC QLD

This page last updated 18 June 2015 (Version: 2.2.2.26993)