



Electoral Commissioner

Our Ref: 16/469

Senator the Hon James McGrath
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Inquiry into the proposed amendments to the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017 Questions on Notice

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters on Friday 5 October 2018. Please find below answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing.

1. Senator Waters asked: Can you accumulate the expenditure of the political party or do you need to say, 'In this particular seat, where we got more than four per cent, we spent this and this and this,' or can you just say, 'We reached more than four per cent in all of these seats and our total expenditure was blah'? (Proof Hansard p 54)

AEC response

A registered political party is expected to lodge a single claim, setting out the electoral expenditure incurred by the party, or by candidates endorsed by the party, in relation to all elections held on the day. Parties will not be required to lodge a claim in respect of each electorate where they are eligible for funding (because they met the four percent of first preference votes threshold).

2. Senator Waters asked: Where, for example, state parties of a federated federal party make contributions to that federal wing in order to run a federal campaign, are those contributions captured by that definition of electoral expenditure? (Proof Hansard p 54)

AEC response

These contributions would not fall within the definition of electoral expenditure, as the state branch would not itself be incurring expenditure for the dominant purpose of creating or communicating electoral matter.

Yours sincerely

Tom Rogers

8 October 2018