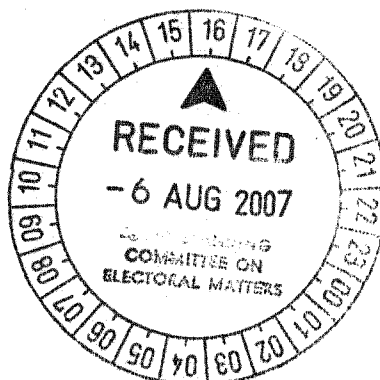




THE HON GARY NAIRN MP
Special Minister of State
Federal Member for Eden-Monaro

Mrs Sophie Mirabella MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



3 AUG 2007

Dear Mrs Mirabella

Sophie

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the Government's response to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' report: *Funding and Disclosure: Inquiry into disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates*.

The Government's response has been presented to the President of the Senate for tabling out of session.

On behalf of the Government, I would like to thank the Committee and the former Chair, the Hon Peter Lindsay MP, for their effective and comprehensive analysis of electoral issues in this and other reports.

Yours sincerely

Gary Nairn
GARY NAIRN



Government Response

to the

Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

***Funding and Disclosure: Inquiry into disclosure of donations to
political parties and candidates***

August 2007

Government Response to the Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters: *Funding and Disclosure: Inquiry into disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates*

The Report

The Government notes that the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) did not find the need to add to the recommendations on funding and disclosure that it made in its report on the 2004 federal election.

The *Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Electoral Integrity and Other Measures) Act 2006*, which received Royal Assent on 22 June 2006, included changes to disclosure requirements. Key changes included increasing the disclosure thresholds to more than \$10,000 (indexed to the Consumer Price Index), and increasing the tax deductibility threshold to \$1,500 for donations and gifts from individuals or corporations to political parties, independent candidates and independent members of Parliament.

These provisions were part of the Government's response to the recommendations of JSCEM in its report entitled *The 2004 Federal Election: Report of the Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2004 Federal Election and Matters Related Thereto*. The Government's full response to the JSCEM's report on the 2004 federal election was tabled in the Parliament on 31 August 2006.

Dissenting Report by Mr Michael Danby MP, Mr Alan Griffin MP, Senator Kim Carr and Senator John Hogg, Australian Labor Party

Response

The Government does not support the eleven recommendations on funding and disclosure made in this dissenting report.

Dissenting Report by Senator Andrew Murray, Australian Democrats

Response

The Government notes the twelve recommendations made by Senator Murray in his dissenting report. The Government also notes that these recommendations were made by Senator Murray in his supplementary remarks on the report by JSCEM on the 2004 federal election. The Government response to that report noted that the issues had been raised by Senator Murray on a number of previous occasions and the Government made no further comment on those supplementary remarks. The Government has no further comment on this dissenting report by Senator Murray.