

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18

Finance Portfolio
24-25 May 2017

Department/Agency: AEC
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: One Nation: Galileo Movement

Senator: Farrell

Question reference number: F147

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

On his register of Senator's interests, Senator Roberts lists himself as the 'voluntary project manager of the Galileo Movement'.

According to the public record – the movement is not registered as a political party, nor is it registered as a charity.

The movement accepts donations via a range of matters – and Senator Roberts is himself featured in a YouTube video where he discusses receiving donations from pensioners.

Given the group is still active – evidenced through an active social media presence, I just want to clarify the requirements around political actors such as this.

1. Does the group need to register itself with the AEC as an associated entity?
2. Has the group or Senator Roberts ever contacted the AEC about that, or clarified their requirements around donations, disclosure, or authorisation?
3. If not: Are the actions of the movement legal given their actions?
4. Has the AEC taken any action (including making inquiries) to ensure Senator Roberts' fundraising via his Galileo Movement is within the rules?

Answer:

1. No, associated entities are not registered with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).
2. No.
3. The AEC administers Part XX of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* which deals with the financial disclosure of participants in the electoral process. The Galileo Movement does not appear to have had a disclosure obligation.
4. No, the AEC will work with entities to clarify their status and any possible disclosure obligations.