

Additional information

**Inquiry into the Electoral Disclosure and Funding Amendment Bill
2024 (No. 9)**

September 2024 | Tasmanian Policy Exchange

Acknowledgment of Country

The University of Tasmania pays its respects to elders past and present and to the many Aboriginal people that did not make elder status and to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community that continues to care for Country. We acknowledge the profound effect of climate change on this Country and seek to work alongside Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, with their deep wisdom and knowledge, to address climate change and its impacts.

The Palawa people belong to one of the world's oldest living cultures, continually resident on this Country for over 65,000 years. They have survived and adapted to significant climate changes over this time, such as sea-level rise and extreme rainfall variability, and as such embody thousands of generations of intimate place-based knowledge.

We acknowledge with deep respect that this knowledge represents a range of cultural practices, wisdom, traditions, and ways of knowing the world that provide accurate and useful climate change information, observations, and solutions.

The University of Tasmania likewise recognises a history of truth that acknowledges the impacts of invasion and colonisation upon Aboriginal people, resulting in forcible removal from their lands.

Our island is deeply unique, with cities and towns surrounded by spectacular landscapes of bushland, waterways, mountain ranges, and beaches.

The University of Tasmania stands for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, culture, language, and history, and a continued effort to fight for Aboriginal justice and rights paving the way for a strong future.

Disclaimer

The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the University of Tasmania.

Disclosure timeframes and responsibilities

- Western Australia is implementing a 24-hour disclosure timeframe during election periods, defined as after writs have been issued¹
- The Northern Territory has a 5-day disclosure timeframe, while South Australia and Queensland uses a 7-day timeframe during an election period, but in the week before polling day donations must be disclosed within 24 hours
- Since 2013, California has required recipients and donors of contributions of US\$1,000 or more to disclose within 24 hours within 90 days of an election²
- In most Australian jurisdictions, both recipients and donors must submit disclosures³

Vote saving provisions

- This article provides an overview of vote saving provisions in Australia and nationally: <https://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/UNSWLawJl/2016/13.html>

Analysis of donations

- All data is from the AEC, and pertains to state branches of the parties
- The data includes some donations below the disclosure threshold – we assume that these donations were voluntarily disclosed
- There is no donations data available for the Greens and ALP for 2022-23
- Disclosures do not have to occur until 18 months after the election
- Largest single donations for the period 1998-99 to 2022-23:

Year	Donor name	Donations recipient	Amount
2007-08	Mr & Mrs Greg & Joanne Beirne	Greens	\$200,000
2015-16	Wood, Graeme	Greens	\$130,000
2020-21	Bromfield, Erin	ALP	\$103,750
2017-18	Australian Hotels Association	Liberal Party	\$100,000
2009-10	Mineralogy Pty Ltd	Liberal Party	\$100,000
2017-18	Kalis Hospitality Pty Ltd	Liberal Party	\$70,000
2019-20	Estate of Vanessa Goodwin	Liberal Party	\$60,959
2017-18	Australian Hotels Association	Liberal Party	\$60,000
2020-21	Bequest from Estate of Elspeth Hope-Johnstone	Greens	\$54,497
2017-18	CFMEU	ALP	\$51,425

- Aggregate declared donations for the Greens, ALP, and Liberal Party for the period 1998-99 to 2022-23:

Party	No. of donors	Total amount	Top 5 donors
Greens	37	\$803,281	Mr & Mrs Greg & Joanne Beirne
			Wood, Graeme
			Turpie, Duncan

¹ <https://www.elections.wa.gov.au/funding-and-disclosure>

² <https://www.sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-access-resources/campaign-reporting>

³ https://law.unimelb.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/3589390/Political-Finance-Laws-Commissioned-Report-ERRN-Final-with-Abstract.pdf

Party	No. of donors	Total amount	Top 5 donors	
			Bequest from Estate of Elspeth Hope-Johnstone	\$54,497
			Dominet Digital Corporation Pty Ltd ATF The Carosa Family Trust	\$50,000
Liberal Party	194	\$1,573,895	Australian Hotels Association	\$444,438
			Pathology Australia Limited	\$227,500
			The Pharmacy Guild of Australia	\$206,967
			Macquarie Bank	\$162,650
			Mineralogy Pty Ltd	\$150,000
			Australian Hotels Association	\$444,438
ALP	104	\$6,545,358	CFMEU	\$272,425
			Bromfield, Erin	\$103,750
			The Federal Group	\$102,680
			Gunns Limited	\$58,826
			Cameron, Jan	\$50,000