## Behind the Scenes

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## Funding and Disclosure

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The funding and disclosure provisions of the Act have been in operation since the 1984 election. The provisions of the Act have two main components:

- public funding of election campaigns, and
- disclosure of certain financial details by candidates, registered political parties and other persons (third parties) and groups (returns are submitted to the AEC)



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## Funding and Disclosure

## **Election Funding**

A candidate or Senate group is eligible for election funding if they obtain at least four per cent of the formal first preference vote in the division or the State or Territory they contested. The amount to be paid is calculated by multiplying the number of votes obtained by the current election funding rate. The funding rate for the 2001 federal election was 179.026 cents per House of Representatives and Senate vote. This rate is indexed every six months to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

#### **Payment procedures**

Election funding is paid in two stages. First, the AEC calculates the amount of election funding due based on the number of votes counted as at the 20th day after polling day and pays at least 95% of that amount. Secondly, once vote counting is finalised, the AEC pays the remainder of the amount of election funding due. The total election funding paid at the 2001 federal election was \$38,559,409.33.

For candidates and Senate groups endorsed by registered political parties, payments are made directly to their parties. Unendorsed candidates and Senate groups receive their payments direct, unless they have appointed an agent who is to receive the payment.

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## Funding and Disclosure

Total election funding payments for the 2001 federal election are listed below:

| Payee   | Amount                | Payee                                     | Amount        |
|---|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| Australian Labor Party (ALP)  | 14,917,024.57         | DALGLEISH David Bruce - Wide Bay QLD      | 5,714.51      |
| Liberal Party of Australia (LP)   | 14,492,349.83         | DOUGLASS Ross Thomas - Mallee VIC         | 6,631.12      |
| National Party of Australia (NP)  | 2,845,193.98          | HAIGH Bruce Douglas - Gwydir NSW          | 8,301.44      |
| Australian Democrats (DEM)  | 2,411,689.69          | HOURIGAN Rosalind - Fisher QLD            | 10,745.14     |
| Australian Greens (AG)  | 1,370,734.04          | KATTER B Robert Karl - Kennedy QLD        | 63,652.69     |
| Pauline Hanson's One Nation (HAN)   | 1,709,752.00          | KESSELS Colin James - Dickson QLD         | 9,314.72      |
| No Goods and Services Tax Party   | 5,488.94              | MacDONALD Peter Alexander - Warringah NSW | 38,472.69     |
| Northern Territory Country Liberal Party                                  | 138,997.58            | MCINTOSH Nelson Douglas - Indi VIC        | 9,459.73      |
| Christian Democratic Party NSW (Fred Nile Group)                          | 7,647.99              | MELVILLE Peter Lloyd - Hinkler QLD        | 12,794.99     |
| The Greens WA - Inc   | 223,129.05            | MOTT William Trevor - Cunningham NSW      | 7,581.75      |
| liberals for forests  | 14,332.82             | PAULGER S Shane Peter - Fairfax QLD       | 13,460.96     |
| Progressive Labour Party  | 7,327.53              | STEGLEY Kristin - Goldstein VIC           | 8,605.78      |
| Unity - Say No To Hanson  | 17,689.55             | THEOPHANOUS Andrew Charles - Calwell VIC  | 15,023.86     |
| ANDREN Peter James - Calare NSW   | 73,017.54             | TREASURE Douglas Harry - Gippsland VIC    | 7,606.81      |
| AUSTIN Pauline Maisie - Solomon NT  | 4,257.24              | WICKS Graeme Francis - Wide Bay QLD       | 6,051.08      |
| BOWN Conway - Herbert QLD   | 11,588.35             | WINDSOR C Antony Harold - New England NSW | 64,435.04     |
| COCHRAN Peter Lachlan – Eden-Monaro NSW<br>COOPER Thomas James - Page NSW | 11,522.11<br>9,814.21 | TOTAL                                     | 38,559,409.33 |
|   |                       |   |               |

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## **Receipt of Returns**

Following an election key participants in the electoral process are required to lodge with the AEC various returns disclosing certain election campaign transactions.

A summary table of the returns is presented below:

| Participant   | Type of return   | Time frame                           | Due date         |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Candidates    | donations received and electoral expenditure   | within 15 weeks<br>after polling day | 25 February 2002 |
| Senate groups | donations received and electoral expenditure   | within 15 weeks<br>after polling day | 25 February 2002 |
| Third parties | details of electoral expenditure,<br>donations received, and<br>donations made to candidates<br>and others | within 15 weeks<br>after polling day | 25 February 2002 |
| Broadcasters  | electoral advertisements<br>broadcast  | within 8 weeks<br>after polling day  | 7 January 2002   |
| Publishers    | electoral advertisements<br>published  | within 8 weeks<br>after polling day  | 7 January 2002   |

All these returns are available for public inspection 24 weeks after polling day, that is from Monday, 29 April 2002.

The AEC is required under subsection 17(2) of the Act to prepare a separate report for the Minister on the operations of the funding and disclosure provisions in relation to the 2001 federal election. This report will be tabled in parliament.

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### **Registered Political Parties**

Political parties may register with the AEC for federal elections. Parties which register then must fulfil legislative requirements under the funding and disclosure provisions of the Act and are able to have party names appear on the ballot paper next to their candidates.

Some parties, such as the Australian Democrats, do not separately register their State and Territory branches, but such branches are nevertheless recognised as independent registered parties for funding and disclosure purposes.

For federal elections the register closes the day before the writ is issued. For the 2001 federal election the register closed on 7 October 2001. Following is a list of parties registered for the 2001 election:

### List of Parties Registered for the 2001 Election

Advance Australia Party Australian Labor Party (Western Australian Branch) Australia First Party \*Australian Reform Party Dereg 18.01.02 **Australian Democrats** Australians Against Further Immigration Australian Shooters Party Australian Greens Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch) Australian Women's Party Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group) Australian Labor Party (ALP) Australian Labor Party (N.S.W. Branch) Citizens Electoral Council of Australia Australian Labor Party (Northern Territory Branch) City Country Alliance Australian Labor Party (South Australian Branch) Country Labor Party Australian Labor Party (State of Queensland) **Curtin Labor Alliance** Democratic Labor Party (DLP) of Australia Australian Labor Party (Tasmanian Branch) Helen Caldicott's - Our Common Future Party Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch)

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## Funding and Disclosure

### List of Parties Registered for the 2001 Election (continued)

Help End Marijuana Prohibition

Hope Party Australia

liberals for forests

Liberal Party of Australia

Liberal Party (W.A. division) Inc.

Liberal Party of Australia (S.A. division)

Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian division)

Liberal Party of Australia (ACT division)

Liberal Party of Australia - Queensland division

Liberal Party of Australia - Tasmanian division

Liberal Party of Australia - NSW division

Lower Excise Fuel and Beer Party

National Party of Australia

National Party of Australia (Queensland)

National Party of Australia (SA) Inc

National Party of Australia (WA) Inc

National Party of Australia - N.S.W.

National Party of Australia - Victoria

No Goods and Services Tax Party

Non-Custodial Parents Party

Northern Territory Country Liberal Party

Nuclear Disarmament Party of Australia

**Outdoor Recreation Party** 

Pauline Hanson's One Nation

Peter Breen - Reform the Legal System

Phil Cleary - Independent Australia

**Progressive Labour Party** 

**Queensland Greens** 

Republican Party of Australia

Save the ADI Site Party

\* Socialist Equality Party Dereg 25.02.02

Tasmania First Party

Tasmanian Independent Senator Brian

Harradine Group

\* Taxi Operators Political Service (Oceania) Dereg 21.12.01

The Fishing Party

The Greens NSW

The Greens (WA) Inc

The Australian Greens - Victoria

Unity - Say No To Hanson

Young National Party of Australia

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