

25/02/2013

Submission to Electoral Reform Discussion Paper-

1 POLITICAL DONATIONS

We do not know the existing laws. However in a democracy each voter should have equal influence.

Regarding donations-these could be to a central pool and then have a system to spread the funds amongst political parties.

At all costs wealthy donor should not have influence greater than those less wealthy.

Capping of donations need not be capped so long as the donor has not increased influence. Provision has to be made so that there is only one avenue for donation e.g. only from an identifiable person and not via lobby groups, trusts nor companies.

Do not understand option e

Disclosure of donations should be obligatory

Cannot comment on Campaign a/c (h)

2 PUBLIC FUNDING FOR ELECTIONS

Public funding arrangements in Qld—I do not know what they are—But public funding should be encouraged. And rules instituted to define a political party.

Clearly there should be a limit on public funding and if there is private funding this should be limited too.

A winning party should not get more funds than the runner up nor the third place getter.

3 ELECTION CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE

There must be a level playing field. There must be good definitions of political parties so that minor parties and independents are not excluded: perhaps independents could be considered as a group for funding but keep their independent political views.

2c there should be no room for confusion nor obfuscation in funding whither it is party sourced or affiliated organisation sourced.

2e Clearly electoral expenditure should be transparent and additionally should be well advertised publically.

2g. Not in a position to comment.

PART B

1 TRUTH TELLING is vital. Bald statements without a comparator designed for political gain demeans the political process and there are many examples where such methods have prejudiced development in Australia.

2 HOW TO VOTE Large placards at each polling booth replacing how-to-vote flyers is to be encouraged. The intervention of supporters at booths is to be discouraged. Generally how to vote flyers seek to manipulate a voter's free choice and smacks of wheeling and dealing.

3 PROOF OF IDENTITY the present system seems to be working but does seem to be dated.

4 ENROLEMENT should be available and encouraged constantly, even on polling day

5 ELECTRONIC VOTING. This should be available at all polling booths and at other sites to allow for pre election voting and also for those away from home

6 POSTAL VOTING. On line voting should be encouraged.

7 COMPULSORY VOTING. This issue is the single one that is envied by all democratic nations. It has immense value in allowing all voices to be heard. The electoral commission has figures showing that abuse (donkey votes) is less than 7%. It tends to engage a large proportion of the population in choice of political parties.

Kind regards,

Frank Ekin