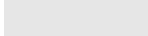


From: 
To: [Have Your Say \(DoJ\)](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION re : ELECTORAL ACT REVIEW, INTERIM REPORT
Date: Wednesday, 13 February 2019 9:57:14 AM

To whom it may concern:

It is time to change the rules concerning the disclosure of political donations in Tasmania.

I agree with the huge number of Tasmanian citizens who want to see a re-writing of the rules on political donations - Tasmania has the dubious honour of being Australia's least transparent state.

It is politically convenient and lazy for Tasmania to use the Federal allowance of \$13,800 as the minimum reportable level, while we see examples of Victoria, NSW, Queensland and ACT all agreeing on \$1,000. However, even the \$1,000 level is questionable: I firmly believe that all donations to political parties and to candidates should be placed on the public record - when they are made.

The requirement to disclose political donations simply on an annual basis is hard to accept. Because of this, contributions to the 2018 election have only just been made public, now, in February 2019, many months after the election. Clearly, the public interest is not a consideration, while the system gives a definite advantage to the political parties who can successfully hide this information until it is too late to influence voting trends. Even the delayed disclosures do not tell the whole story : Labour accounted for a mere 21% of donations, Liberals for 22% - all seemingly according to the rules! What about the other 75% of donations? How can members of the public take this seriously? It is a very unsatisfactory situation and far from transparent, leading to voters' justifiable mistrust of politicians and political parties.

In addition, it is very concerning that multiple small donations by a single donor are not aggregated, a rule which openly permits many large total donations to go unidentified and unscrutinised. This makes a complete mockery of the minimum amount rule, which is already inadequate. The situation is unacceptable and needs to be remedied.

I request that this viewpoint be taken into account in the parliamentary discussions .

Una Harbinson,
HOBART.