

Political Finance Annual Report

Report on the operation of
Part VI of the *Electoral Act 1907*
for the period ended 30 June 2018





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Introduction

In accordance with section 175ZG of the *Electoral Act 1907* (the Act) this report has been prepared for submission to the Minister, and subsequently each House of Parliament. This report summarises the operation of Part VI of the Act during the 2017–2018 financial year.

The first half of the 2017–2018 financial year was dominated by disclosure requirements occasioned by the 2017 State General Election. State election disclosure returns which did not have a nil disclosure were published on the Commission’s website for public view. In addition the Commission received, assessed and reimbursed qualified funding claims relating to the 2017 State General Election from eligible independent candidates and political parties. Funding and disclosure requirements from the 2017 State General Election were addressed in the 2016–2017 Political Finance Annual Report. During the second half of the 2017–2018 financial year, the Commission conducted two State by-elections successively. These by-elections created fresh election based disclosure requirements for the candidates and political parties that participated.

Other than election related activities concerning disclosure, the Commission processed two amendments to the political party register. One of these amendments was a request from a political party to cancel their registration. The other amendment was an application from a political party to change their registered party name and abbreviation.

The Commission continued its educative stance to ensure compliance. Communication was sent to political parties and associated entities concerning their annual return obligations and election related disclosure. Emailed election bulletins were used during the 2018 by-elections to provide timely and relevant information to candidates and political parties, continuing the practice from the 2017 State General Election.

Data provided in financial disclosure returns submitted for the 2017–2018 financial year, as well as copies of the returns, are detailed online on the [Commission website](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au), www.elections.wa.gov.au.



David Kerslake

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

Summary of disclosures and public funding through the 2017–2018 financial year

1. Financial disclosures

1.1 Annual returns by political parties and associated entities

- \$11,790,082.17 in gifts and other income was declared by 20 political parties.
- \$1,432,365.50 in gifts and other income was declared by five associated entities.
- Two political parties lodged late returns, but the information was available publicly by the deadline required by the Act, four weeks after the return was required to be lodged.
- Two political parties submitted amendments to their 2017–2018 disclosure in December 2018.

Table 1: Comparison of disclosure returns

Gifts & other income declared by:	Financial year	
	2017–2018	2016–2017
Political parties	\$11,790,082.17	\$23,181,233.67
Associated entities	\$1,432,365.50	\$1,218,315.60

Political parties and associated entities are entitled to meet their State disclosure obligations by lodging the same return prepared for the Australian Electoral Commission under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (CEA)*¹, if they are obliged to submit a Federal return. Four registered political parties met their disclosure requirements by submitting their Federal return for the 2017–2018 reporting period.

¹ The CEA disclosure threshold for individual donations for 2017–2018 was \$13,500, whereas the State threshold was \$2,500.

1.2 2018 Cottesloe by-election

The by-election, held on 17 March 2018, was contested by three Independent candidates and four political parties. Candidates and political parties had until 15 weeks after polling day, or 2 July 2018, to submit their by-election disclosure returns to the Commission. These returns were available online for public inspection 19 weeks after polling day.

- \$1,758.00 in total gifts was declared by candidates.
- Gifts not disclosed by party–endorsed candidates are incorporated into the annual return of the relevant party.
- \$84,658.63 in electoral expenditure was declared.

1.3 2018 Darling Range by–election

Two Independent candidates and nine political parties contested the by-election held on 23 June 2018. As with the Cottesloe by-election, candidates and political parties had 15 weeks after polling day, or until 8 October 2018, to submit their by-election disclosure returns to the Commission. These returns were made available for public inspection 19 weeks after polling day.

- No gifts were declared by candidates.
- Gifts not disclosed by party–endorsed candidates are incorporated into the annual return of the relevant party.
- \$503,103.31 in electoral expenditure was declared.

continued ...

Summary of disclosures and public funding through the 2017–2018 financial year



1.4 Part VI disclosures

- One political party amended their registered party name and abbreviation during the 2017–2018 financial year.
- One political party had its registration cancelled, at its' request.
- Two political parties updated address details for the party.
- Four political parties updated details for their party agent.
- Five political parties changed their party secretary.
- 153 public agencies disclosed to Parliament expenditure of \$92,190,838.05 relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising agencies.

Table 2: Summary of certain expenditure by public agencies during the 2017–2018 financial year

Class of expenditure	Amount of expenditure declared
Advertising agencies	\$31,454,893.83
Market research organisations	\$8,327,509.92
Polling organisations	\$62,870.73
Direct mail organisations	\$4,219,134.11
Media advertising organisations	\$48,126,429.46
Total expenditure declared (153 agencies)	\$92,190,838.05

The appendix to this report lists the specific details of the classes of expenditure disclosed by various public agencies.

2. Public funding

Two by-elections were held during the 2017–2018 financial year where eligible political parties and candidates were entitled to submit claims for public funding for by-election related expenses. Reimbursement of electoral expenditure is authorised where the candidate has received more than four percent of the total formal votes. The figure to be reimbursed is the lesser amount of electoral expenditure or the amount determined by using the public funding figure (\$1.889) per first preference vote received. Eligible candidates, or their party agent, are required to submit a claim within 20 weeks after polling day in order to receive any public funding.

2.1 2018 Cottesloe by-election

One independent candidate and three political parties qualified to submit claims for reimbursement of electoral expenditure by 6 August 2018 in relation to the Cottesloe by-election. The last claim was finalised on 15 June 2018 and all claims were publicly available from 3 September 2018.

Table 3: Summary of electoral funding reimbursement at the 2018 Cottesloe by-election

Candidate/ Party name	Number of primary votes as % of valid votes	Number of primary votes	Amount paid (\$)
The Greens (WA) Inc.	19.58%	3,555	\$6,453.00
The Liberal Party of Australia (WA Division) Inc.	59.87%	10,872	\$20,537.21
TUCAK, Michael (Independent)	5.38%	977	\$1,845.55
WESTERN AUSTRALIA PARTY	9.01%	1,636	\$3,090.40
Total			\$31,926.16

continued ...

Summary of disclosures and public funding through the 2017–2018 financial year



2.2 2018 Darling Range by-election

Claims for reimbursement of electoral expenditure incurred for the Darling Range by-election were required to be lodged with the Commission by 12 November 2018. Seven political parties qualified to claim for reimbursement. The last claim was finalised on 20 November 2018 and all claims were publicly available from 10 December 2018.

Table 4: Summary of electoral funding reimbursement at the 2018 Darling Range by-election

Candidate/ Party name	Number of primary votes as % of valid votes	Number of primary votes	Amount paid (\$)
Australian Christians (WA)	4.69%	1,145	\$2,162.91
Australian Labor Party (WA Branch)	31.99%	7,809	\$14,751.20
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	7.76%	1,894	\$3,577.77
Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (WA)	4.56%	1,112	\$2,039.68
The Greens (WA) Inc	5.85%	1,427	\$1,879.44
The Liberal Party of Australia (WA Division) Inc	34.49%	8,418	\$15,901.60
WESTERN AUSTRALIA PARTY	5.79%	1,413	\$2,669.16
Total			\$42,981.76

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act



Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority ^a						
Agricultural Produce Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Animal Resources Authority	4,136.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,076.00	20,212.00
Aqwest	0.00	10,265.00	0.00	0.00	8,516.00	18,781.00
Architects Board of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	184.57	0.00	0.00	184.57
Art Gallery of Western Australia	68,995.00	58,990.00	0.00	0.00	224,203.00	352,188.00
Auditor General, Office of the	705.00	0.00	54,182.00	0.00	0.00	54,887.00
Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of	83,314.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	153,011.21	236,325.59
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	11,690.00	13,716.00	6,655.00	999.28	65,916.72	98,977.00
Building and Construction Industry Training Board	137,791.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	340,232.00	478,023.00
Burswood Park Board	2,028.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,687.00	7,715.00
Busselton Water Corporation	0.00	248,072.00	0.00	13,623.00	26,551.00	288,246.00
ChemCentre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chief Psychiatrist of Western Australia ^a						
Child and Adolescent Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	980.64	980.64
Coal Miners' Welfare Board ^a						
Coastal Shipping Commission, Western Australian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Combat Sports Commission	1,648.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,648.81
Commissioner for Children and Young People	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communities, Department of	11,428.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	81,258.00	92,686.00
Conservation and Parks Commission ^a						
Construction Industry Long Service Leave Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Country Health Service, Western Australia	0.00	5,500.00	0.00	0.00	66,932.16	72,432.16
Country Housing Authority ^a						
Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment ^a						
Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disability Services Commission	40,377.00	83,594.00	0.00	4,238.00	2,400.00	130,609.00
East Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	294,559.00	0.00	0.00	13,158.00	307,717.00
Economic Regulation Authority	47,199.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,199.00
Education, Department of	388,133.00	117,950.00	0.00	0.00	137,028.00	643,111.00
Environmental Protection Authority ^a						
Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia	0.00	14,800.00	840.00	783.00	0.00	16,424.00
Finance, Department of	10,061.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,061.00
Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fire and Emergency Services, Department of	9,343.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	189,696.00	199,039.00
Forest Products Commission	0.00	82,859.70	0.00	0.00	33,064.91	115,924.61
Fremantle Ports	0.00	58,370.00	0.00	10,508.76	116,193.45	185,072.21
Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia	367.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	367.49
Gascoyne Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	772.99	772.99
Gender Reassignment Board of Western Australia ^a						
Gold Corporation	1,133,856.00	35,260.00	0.00	207,635.00	159,667.00	1,536,418.00
Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission	1,520.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,520.82
Government Chief Information Officer, Office of the	374.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	374.00
Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB)	59,837.00	37,347.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	97,184.00
Governors Establishment ^a						

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Great Southern Development Commission	0.00	3,045.00	0.00	0.00	468.00	3,513.00
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office	704.36	0.00	0.00	219.32	0.00	923.68
Health Support Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Health, Department of	44,276.00	658,554.00	0.00	24,897.00	1,023,658.00	1,751,385.00
Healthway	0.00	2,479.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,479.00
Heritage Council of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Horizon Power	433,255.88	87,612.00	0.00	988.75	238,878.62	760,735.25
Housing Authority	311,327.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,131,601.00	1,442,928.00
Independent Market Operator	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Information Commissioner of Western Australia, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inspector of Custodial Services, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance Commission of Western Australia	6,747.00	15,890.00	0.00	0.00	24,964.00	47,601.00
Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Department of	8,201.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52,960.00	61,161.00
Justice, Department of	199,650.00	0.00	395.00	0.00	179,617.00	379,662.00
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	48,005.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48,005.20
Kimberley Development Commission	1,653.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,653.66
Kimberley Ports Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,560.89	51,560.89
LandCorp	1,334,211.00	20,375.00	0.00	0.00	554,920.00	1,899,506.00
Law Reform Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Aid Western Australia	14,190.37	19,630.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,820.37
Legal Costs Committee ^a						
Legal Practice Board of Western Australia ^a						
Legislative Assembly, Department of ^a						
Legislative Council, Department of ^a						

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act



Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Liquor Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Department of	65,921.00	0.00	0.00	3,350.00	2,671.98	71,942.98
Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee ^a						
Lotterywest	4,182,204.00	479,822.00	0.00	0.00	14,442,839.00	19,104,865.00
Main Roads Western Australia	72,300.00	140,300.00	0.00	32,700.00	21,000.00	366,300.00
Mental Health Advocacy Service	5,742.00	6,212.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,954.00
Mental Health Commission	41,681.71	411,065.26	0.00	0.00	2,479,149.85	2,931,897.00
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board	0.00	31,790.00	0.00	0.00	5,543.00	37,333.00
Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority	99,924.94	26,525.00	0.00	0.00	198,493.44	324,943.38
Mid West Development Commission	3,404.00	4,983.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,387.00
Mid West Ports ^a						
Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Department of	306,165.99	129,479.69	383.16	44,098.32	20,500.00	500,627.16
National Trust of Australia (WA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Metropolitan Health Service	87,941.00	163,990.00	0.00	0.00	45,051.00	296,982.00
Ombudsman Western Australia	0.00	4,997.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,997.00
Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parliamentary Services Department ^a						
Peel Development Commission	0.00	3,300.00	0.00	0.00	4,638.35	7,938.35
Perth Theatre Trust	1,332.46	0.00	0.00	9,503.01	183,146.89	193,982.36
Pharmacy Registration Board of Western Australia ^a						
Pilbara Development Commission	62.12	0.00	0.00	244.35	0.00	306.47
Pilbara Ports Authority	106,135.00	65,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	171,635.00
Planning, Lands and Heritage, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	358,868.00	358,867.00

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act



Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Premier and Cabinet, Department of the	31,367.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80,136.00	111,503.00
Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of	25,281.00	5,493.00	0.00	508,539.00	139,314.00	678,628.00
Professional Standards Councils	2,949.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	205.47	3,155.35
Public Advocate, Office of the	824.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	824.00
Public Education Endowment Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Sector Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,102.00	56,102.00
Public Transport Authority	1,705,499.00	337,341.00	0.00	0.00	42,003.00	2,084,843.00
Public Trustee	3,065.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,534.00	19,599.00
Quadriplegic Centre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	393.98	393.98
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Racing and Wagering Western Australia	7,016,000.00	437,000.00	0.00	165,000.00	10,715,000.00	18,333,000.00
Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal of Western Australia	93.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.23
Rottnest Island Authority	8,230.00	75,900.00	0.00	0.00	228,973.00	313,103.00
Rural Business Development Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School Curriculum and Standards Authority ^a						
Small Business Development Corporation	79,268.00	23,812.00	0.00	0.00	21,563.00	124,643.00
South Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	324,016.00	0.00	0.00	2,332.00	326,348.00
South West Development Commission	6,313.50	4,945.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,258.50
Southern Ports	0.00	73,725.00	0.00	3,500.00	24,760.00	101,986.00
State Administrative Tribunal ^a						
State Coroner for Western Australian, Office of the ^a						
State Emergency Management Committee and Office of Emergency Management	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Library of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	245,336.00	245,336.00

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
State Records Commission ^a						
State Supply Commission ^a						
State Training Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swan Bells Foundation ^a						
Swan River Trust ^a						
Synergy ^a						
Technology and Industry Advisory Council ^a						
Tourism Western Australia	2,391,000.00	1,703,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,407,000.00	14,501,000.00
Training Accreditation Council, Office of ^a						
Training and Workforce Development, Department of ^a						
Transport, Department of	3,925.00	9,997.27	0.00	6,845.94	25,341.77	46,109.98
Treasury Corporation, Western Australian	4,406.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,406.00
Treasury, Department of	20,988.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,988.00
VenuesWest	0.00	31,297.00	0.00	0.00	676,933.00	708,230.00
Veterinary Surgeons Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Waste Authority	39,462.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,058.00	41,520.00
Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of	4,707.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	498,879.97	503,587.41
Water Corporation	3,017,263.00	484,256.00	0.00	0.00	1,019,285.00	4,520,804.00
Western Australian Building Management Authority ^a						
Western Australian Electoral Commission	2,760.80	0.00	0.00	2,033,702.38	128,962.54	2,165,425.72
Western Australian Energy Disputes Arbitrator	0.00	452.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	452.00
Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association	825.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,252.00	28,077.00
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Chief Commissioner of the ^a						

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Department of the Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41,825.00	41,825.00
Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS) ^a						
Western Australian Land Information Authority [Landgate]	25,945.00	82,328.00	0.00	2,105.00	130,700.63	241,078.63
Western Australian Meat Industry Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Australian Museum	5,468.36	95,578.00	0.00	0.00	393,770.30	494,816.66
Western Australian Planning Commission	6,363.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,426.00	256,789.00
Western Australian Police	5,749,749.51	337,850.00	0.00	0.00	21,127.62	5,298,974.78
Western Australian Regional Development Trust ^a						
Western Australian Reproductive Technology Council ^a						
Western Power	1,886,466.00	906,812.00	231.00	1,089,402.00	0.00	3,882,911.00
Wheatbelt Development Commission	0.00	2,145.00	0.00	0.00	2,467.00	4,612.00
WorkCover Western Australia	6,011.00	612.00	0.00	845.00	449.00	7,917.00
Zoological Parks Authority	22,823.00	54,119.00	0.00	55,407.00	265,426.00	397,775.00
Total	31,454,893.83	8,327,509.92	62,870.73	4,219,134.11	48,126,429.38	91,471,087.88^b

Note: The figures above have been reported as stated by agencies in their annual report.

^a Did not report on section 175ZE of the Act.

^b Ten agencies have provided figures for their total expenditure that did not equal the sum of the classes of expenditure they disclosed. In some cases this is due to rounding by the agency.

The total provided here (\$91,471,087.88) is the sum of the total expenditure as stated by the agencies. The total expenditure stated in Table 4 of the report (\$92,190,838.05) is the total of the figures provided by agencies for advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising organisations.



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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission