

# Political Finance Annual Report

Report on the operation of  
Part VI of the *Electoral Act 1907*  
for the period ended 30 June 2019



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

# Contents



<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Summary of disclosures and public funding through the 2018–2019 financial year</b> .....	<b>2</b>
1. Financial disclosures .....	2
1.1 Annual returns by political parties and associated entities .....	2
1.2 Part VI disclosures .....	2
2. Public funding .....	2
<b>Appendix</b>	
Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act .....	3

## Introduction



This summary report has been prepared for submission to the Minister, and subsequently each House of Parliament, in accordance with section 175ZG of the *Electoral Act 1907* (the Act) to summarise the operation of Part VI of the Act during the 2018–2019 financial year.

All fifteen registered political parties complied with the legislative requirement of the Act to lodge an annual return for 2018–2019. In addition, five unregistered political parties complied with annual disclosure requirements, as well as five associated entities. Copies of all annual returns were available publicly on the Commissions' website from 30 December 2019. Data provided in financial disclosure returns submitted for the 2018–2019 financial year are also detailed online on the Commissions' website, [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au).

Funding and disclosure requirements resulting from the 2018 Darling Range by-election continued into the first half of the 2018–2019 financial year. Election returns were lodged by 8 October 2018, with all funding claims submitted by the deadline of 12 November 2018 and paid out in the same month. Details of election returns and funding claims from the 2018 Darling Range by-election were reported in the 2017–2018 Political Finance Annual Report, which was tabled in April 2019.

As required by the Act, the Commission has continued to maintain the register of political parties, processing two amendments to the register in 2018–2019. Any amendments to the register must satisfy the requirements of the Act with regard to the grounds that permit an application to be approved, as well as advertising the application and inviting objections to the application. Both applications to amend the register were approved in accordance with the Act, with both being applications by a political party to change its registered party name and abbreviation.

The Commissions' efforts to build awareness and understanding of the funding and disclosure regime in Western Australia will intensify leading up to the 2021 State General Election. The Commission will undertake a range of education and stakeholder engagement measures over the coming months to ensure parties and candidates are fully aware of their obligations under the Act.

Robert Kennedy

**ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER**

# Summary of disclosures and public funding through the 2018–2019 financial year

## 1. Financial disclosures

### 1.1 Annual returns by political parties and associated entities

- \$15,415,530.75 in gifts and other income was declared by 20 political parties.
- \$2,217,514.00 in gifts and other income was declared by five associated entities.
- One political party lodged a late return but the information was available publicly by the deadline required under the Act

Table 1: Comparison of disclosure returns

Gifts & other income declared by:	Financial year	
	2018–2019	2017–2018
Political parties	\$15,415,530.75	\$11,790,082.17
Associated entities	\$2,217,514.00	\$1,432,365.50

Under section 175N(5) of the Act, 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)<sup>1</sup>, if they are obliged to submit a Federal return. Three registered political parties (Liberal Party, The Nationals and WA Labor) met their disclosure requirements by submitting their Federal return for the 2018–2019 reporting period.

<sup>1</sup> The CEA disclosure threshold for individual donations for 2018–2019 was \$13,800, whereas the State threshold was \$2,500.

### 1.2 Part VI disclosures

- Two political parties amended their registered party names and abbreviations during the 2018–2019 financial year. The Micro Business Party changed their name to the Small Business Party, and the Fluoride Free WA Party changed their name to the Health Australia Party.
- Four political parties updated details for their party agent.
- Three political parties changed their party secretary.
- 153 public agencies disclosed to Parliament expenditure of \$103,307,839.44 relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising agencies.

Table 2: Summary of certain expenditure by public agencies during the 2018–2019 financial year

Class of expenditure	Amount of expenditure declared
Advertising agencies	\$45,670,779.05
Market research organisations	\$8,102,686.97
Polling organisations	\$106,929.13
Direct mail organisations	\$1,868,270.16
Media advertising organisations	\$47,559,174.13
<b>Total expenditure declared (153 agencies)</b>	<b>\$103,307,839.44</b>

The appendix to this report provides a breakdown by public agency of each class of expenditure.

## 2. Public funding

There were no electoral events held in the 2018–2019 financial year that attracted public funding.

## 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 <sup>a</sup>						
Agricultural Produce Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Animal Resources Authority	1,708.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,847.00	<b>49,555.00</b>
Aqwest	0.00	5,488.00	0.00	0.00	4,078.00	<b>9,566.00</b>
Architects Board of Western Australia	916.15	0.00	0.00	501.13	155.30	<b>1,572.58</b>
Art Gallery of Western Australia	131,697.84	32,510.00	0.00	0.00	57,106.75	<b>221,314.59</b>
Auditor General, Office of the	9,059.00	0.00	102,580.00	0.00	0.00	<b>111,639.00</b>
Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of	15,491.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	92,623.47	<b>108,115.26</b>
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	12,880.00	15,389.00	3,120.00	2,500.92	48,066.94	<b>81,956.86</b>
Building and Construction Industry Training Board	77,002.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	525,483.00	<b>602,485.00</b>
Burswood Park Board	2,028.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,120.00	<b>4,148.00</b>
Busselton Water Corporation	0.00	256,911.00	0.00	15,811.00	8,060.00	<b>280,782.00</b>
Central Regional TAFE <sup>b</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160,235.48	<b>160,235.48</b>
ChemCentre	529.00	295.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>824.00</b>
Chief Psychiatrist of Western Australia <sup>a</sup>						
Child and Adolescent Health Service	1,820.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,798.00	<b>6,618.00</b>
Coal Miners' Welfare Board of Western Australia <sup>a</sup>						
Combat Sports Commission	1,954.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>1,954.55</b>
Commissioner for Children and Young People	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Communities, Department of	136,011.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,405.00	<b>151,416.00</b>
Conservation and Parks Commission <sup>a</sup>						
Construction Industry Long Service Leave Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia	17,190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>17,190.00</b>

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 Housing Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Curtin University of Technology <sup>b</sup>	930,263.00	60,226.00	0.00	0.00	1,864,518.00	<b>2,855,007.00</b>
Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment <sup>a</sup>						
Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Disability Services Commission	12,985.00	38,955.00	0.00	7,267.00	0.00	<b>59,207.00</b>
East Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	9,400.00	0.00	0.00	11,477.00	<b>20,877.00</b>
Economic Regulation Authority	18,599.00	4,906.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>23,505.00</b>
Edith Cowan University <sup>b</sup>	1,982,899.00	74,146.00	0.00	0.00	3,788,558.00	<b>5,845,603.00</b>
Education, Department of	668,009.00	192,795.00	0.00	0.00	88,667.00	<b>949,471.00</b>
Environmental Protection Authority <sup>a</sup>						
Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	763.64	849.20	583.50	<b>2,196.34</b>
Finance, Department of	12,263.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>12,263.00</b>
Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Fire and Emergency Services, Department of	755,377.00	0.00	0.00	418.00	199,088.00	<b>954,883.00</b>
Forest Products Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,062.00	<b>18,062.00</b>
Fremantle Ports	0.00	54,152.50	0.00	0.00	105,756.25	<b>159,908.75</b>
Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia	3,748.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>3,748.34</b>
Gascoyne Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,342.37	<b>1,342.37</b>
Gender Reassignment Board of Western Australia <sup>a</sup>						
Gold Corporation	1,141,111.00	35,800.00	0.00	117,645.00	653,508.00	<b>1,948,064.00</b>
Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission	0.00	7,141.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>7,141.58</b>
Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) <sup>a</sup>						
Governors Establishment <sup>a</sup>						

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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office	3,397.00	0.00	0.00	337.59	0.00	<b>3,734.59</b>
Health Support Services	2,708.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>2,708.56</b>
Health, Department of	333,099.00	1,052,299.00	0.00	43,234.00	962,970.00	<b>2,391,602.00</b>
Healthway	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Horizon Power	245,776.32	59,802.30	0.00	5,441.71	184,078.82	<b>495,099.15</b>
Housing Authority	984,190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>984,190.00</b>
Information Commissioner of Western Australia, Office of the	0.00	8,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>8,300.00</b>
Inspector of Custodial Services, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Insurance Commission of Western Australia	5,577.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,822.00	<b>10,399.00</b>
Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	124,033.00	<b>124,033.00</b>
Justice, Department of	168,951.00	64,200.00	295.00	68.00	264,113.00	<b>497,627.00</b>
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	64,832.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>64,832.00</b>
Kimberley Development Commission	2,221.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>2,221.93</b>
Kimberley Ports Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,370.99	<b>17,370.99</b>
LandCorp	1,358,499.00	12,694.00	0.00	0.00	689,833.00	<b>2,061,026.00</b>
Law Reform Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Legal Aid Western Australia	18,029.24	14,641.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>32,670.24</b>
Legal Costs Committee <sup>a</sup>						
Legislative Assembly, Department of	8,908.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>8,908.00</b>
Legislative Council, Department of <sup>a</sup>						
Liquor Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee <sup>a</sup>						

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 \$
Lotterywest	4,201,599.00	430,540.00	0.00	0.00	13,282,694.00	<b>17,914,833.00</b>
Main Roads Western Australia	12,100.00	145,200.00	0.00	29,600.00	170,800.00	<b>357,700.00</b>
Mental Health Commission	70,324.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,416,954.00	<b>2,487,278.00</b>
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board	0.00	33,522.00	0.00	0.00	317.00	<b>33,839.00</b>
Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority	195,285.89	20,065.00	0.00	898.37	181,354.96	<b>397,604.22</b>
Mid West Development Commission	7,525.00	4,213.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>11,738.00</b>
Mid West Ports <sup>a</sup>						
Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Department of	382,007.89	172,923.59	170.49	40,430.52	0.00	<b>595,532.49</b>
Murdoch University <sup>b</sup>	662,426.00	289,400.00	0.00	0.00	2,123,638.00	<b>3,075,464.00</b>
National Trust of Australia (WA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
North Metropolitan Health Service	228,575.00	41,409.00	0.00	0.00	58,636.00	<b>328,620.00</b>
North Metropolitan TAFE <sup>b</sup>	38,016.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	96,644.54	<b>134,660.54</b>
North Regional TAFE <sup>b</sup>	154,291.61	0.00	0.00	1,229.00	49,662.17	<b>205,182.78</b>
Ombudsman Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,191.00	<b>5,191.00</b>
Parliamentary Services Department <sup>a</sup>						
PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,247.00	<b>9,247.00</b>
Peel Development Commission	0.00	3,465.00	0.00	0.00	27.27	<b>3,492.27</b>
Perth Theatre Trust	254,886.45	17,266.00	0.00	9,783.31	0.00	<b>281,935.76</b>
Pilbara Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	952.90	<b>952.90</b>
Pilbara Ports Authority	136,600.00	71,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>207,600.00</b>
Planning, Lands and Heritage, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	645,654.00	<b>645,654.00</b>
Postgraduate Medical Council of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>

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	117,855.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	143,395.00	<b>261,250.00</b>
Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of	25,558.00	94,462.00	0.00	459,193.00	212,803.00	<b>792,016.00</b>
Professional Standards Councils of Western Australia	2,116.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	361.63	<b>2,478.20</b>
Public Advocate, Office of the	4,882.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>4,882.00</b>
Public Education Endowment Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Public Sector Commission	21,440.00	44,000.00	0.00	0.00	146,248.00	<b>211,688.00</b>
Public Transport Authority	1,566,649.00	369,169.00	0.00	0.00	1,018,515.00	<b>2,954,333.00</b>
Public Trustee	14,966.00	64,200.00	0.00	0.00	54,503.00	<b>133,669.00</b>
Quadriplegic Centre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Racing and Wagering Western Australia	17,010,000.00	206,000.00	0.00	167,000.00	196,000.00	<b>17,579,000.00</b>
Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Rottneet Island Authority	27,422.00	61,350.00	0.00	0.00	219,271.00	<b>308,043.00</b>
Rural Business Development Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
School Curriculum and Standards Authority <sup>a</sup>						
Small Business Development Corporation	99,274.00	77,397.00	0.00	0.00	73,391.00	<b>250,062.00</b>
South Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,416.00	<b>20,416.00</b>
South Metropolitan TAFE <sup>b</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,208.91	56,951.03	<b>59,159.94</b>
South Regional TAFE <sup>b</sup>	24,826.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	234,776.28	<b>259,602.51</b>
South West Development Commission	23,027.00	4,911.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>27,938.00</b>
Southern Ports	0.00	74,800.00	0.00	4,284.00	36,526.00	<b>115,610.00</b>
State Administrative Tribunal <sup>a</sup>						
State Coroner for Western Australian, Office of the <sup>a</sup>						

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 Library of Western Australia	2,088.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,455.00	<b>9,543.00</b>
State Records Commission <sup>a</sup>						
State Supply Commission <sup>a</sup>						
State Training Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Swan Bells Foundation <sup>a</sup>						
Swan River Trust <sup>a</sup>						
Synergy <sup>a</sup>						
Technology and Industry Advisory Council <sup>a</sup>						
Tourism Western Australia	2,325,000.00	1,638,000.00	0.00	0.00	8,040,000.00	<b>12,003,000.00</b>
Training Accreditation Council <sup>a</sup>						
Training and Workforce Development, Department of	57,414.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,388.00	<b>78,802.00</b>
Transport, Department of	16,623.00	0.00	0.00	11.00	23,663.83	<b>40,297.83</b>
Treasury Corporation, Western Australian	3,014.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>3,014.00</b>
Treasury, Department of	6,652.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>6,652.00</b>
University of Western Australia <sup>b</sup>	2,707,700.00	134,872.00	0.00	26,410.00	213,545.00	<b>3,082,527.00</b>
VenuesWest	0.00	33,353.00	0.00	0.00	813,370.00	<b>846,723.00</b>
Veterinary Surgeons Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
WA Country Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Waste Authority	113,381.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>113,381.00</b>
Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of	3,813.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	311,288.08	<b>341,266.07</b>
Water Corporation	1,302,188.00	974,817.00	0.00	0.00	1,583,406.00	<b>3,860,411.00</b>
Western Australian Building Management Authority <sup>a</sup>						
Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission <sup>a</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>

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 Electoral Commission	4,250.00	0.00	0.00	318,841.50	47,979.09	<b>371,070.59</b>
Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association	92,462.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>92,462.00</b>
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Chief Commissioner of the <sup>a</sup>						
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Department of the Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,366.00	<b>12,366.00</b>
Western Australian Land Information Authority [Landgate]	4,422.00	47,605.00	0.00	0.00	133,378.00	<b>185,405.00</b>
Western Australian Meat Industry Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Western Australian Museum	0.00	108,188.00	0.00	0.00	296,722.00	<b>404,910.00</b>
Western Australian Police Force	2,421,830.00	321,380.00	0.00	360.00	4,394,855.48	<b>7,138,425.48</b>
Western Australian Regional Development Trust <sup>a</sup>						
Western Australian Reproductive Technology Council <sup>a</sup>						
Western Power	2,185,018.00	564,183.00	0.00	546,607.00	0.00	<b>3,295,808.00</b>
Wheatbelt Development Commission	0.00	3,049.00	0.00	0.00	7,641.00	<b>10,690.00</b>
WorkCover Western Australia	2,750.00	636.00	0.00	538.00	7,814.00	<b>11,738.00</b>
Zoological Parks Authority	10,790.00	51,260.00	0.00	66,802.00	244,613.00	<b>373,465.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,670,779.05</b>	<b>8,102,686.97</b>	<b>106,929.13</b>	<b>1,868,270.16</b>	<b>47,559,174.13</b>	<b>103,334,003.74<sup>c</sup></b>

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

<sup>a</sup> Did not report on section 175ZE of the Act

<sup>b</sup> Report was for the 2018 calendar year

<sup>c</sup> One agency provided figures for their total expenditure that did not equal the sum of the classes of expenditure they disclosed. This figure is the sum of the total expenditure as stated by all agencies. The total expenditure declared, recorded in Table 2 of the report, is the sum total of each class of expenditure as disclosed by the agencies.



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