

2024 Political Finance Annual Report

Report on the operation of
Part VI of the *Electoral Act 1907*
for the period ended 30 June 2024



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

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Introduction

This 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). The purpose of this report is to summarise the operation of Part VI of the Act during the 2023 – 2024 financial year.

12 registered political parties lodged annual returns for the 2023 – 2024 financial year. Six unregistered political parties also lodged returns. In addition, eight associated entities complied with disclosure obligations by lodging an annual return. Data provided in the annual disclosure returns for the 2023 – 2024 financial year are detailed on the Commission's website, www.elections.wa.gov.au.

Funding and disclosure activity resulting from the 2023 Rockingham By-election also concluded in the 2023 – 2024 financial year, and this report provides a summary of that activity.



Dennis O'Reilly

ACTING ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

Summary of disclosures and public funding through the 2023 – 2024 financial year

1. Financial disclosures

1.1 Annual returns by political parties and associated entities

- \$15,680,071.37 in gifts and other income declared by twenty-one political parties.
- \$3,600,164.00 in gifts and other income declared by seven associated entities.

Table 1: Comparison of disclosure returns

Gifts & other income declared by:	Financial year	
	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024
Political parties	\$13,423,681.14	\$15,680,071.37
Associated entities	\$2,257,719.00	\$3,600,164.00

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)*¹, if they are obliged to submit a Federal return. Five political parties and seven associated entities met their disclosure requirements by submitting their Federal return for the 2023 – 2024 reporting period.

1.2 2023 Rockingham By-election

Four Independent candidates and five political parties contested the by-election held on 29 July 2023. Candidates and political parties had until 15 weeks after polling day, or until 13 November 2023, to submit their by-election disclosure returns to the Commission. These returns were available on the Commission's website from 11 December 2023.

- Candidates declared \$11,400.00 in gifts.
Gifts not disclosed by party-endorsed candidates are included in the annual return of the relevant party.
- Candidates and political parties declared a combined total of \$308,932.95 in electoral expenditure.

¹ The CEA disclosure threshold for individual donations for 2023 – 2024 was \$16,300, whereas the State threshold was \$2,600.

1.3 Part VI disclosures

- Three political parties updated details for their party agent.
- Seven political parties were successful with their applications for continued registration during the 2023 – 2024 financial year.
- No party registrations were cancelled in the 2023 – 2024 financial year.
- 121 public agencies disclosed to Parliament expenditure of \$157,652,669.82 relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail, and media advertising agencies.

Table 2: Summary of certain expenditure by public agencies during the 2023 – 2024 financial year

Class of expenditure	Amount of expenditure declared
Advertising agencies	\$52,013,595.52
Market research organisations	\$9,522,895.94
Polling organisations	\$44,558.00
Direct mail organisations	\$1,981,951.76
Media advertising organisations	\$94,092,540.60
Total expenditure declared (121 agencies)	\$157,652,669.82

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

2. Public funding

Eligible political parties and candidates that participated in the 2023 Rockingham By-election, held on 29 July 2023, could submit a claim for reimbursement of their electoral expenditure by 18 December 2023. Reimbursement of electoral expenditure is authorised where a 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 (\$2.25988) per first preference vote received. Four political parties and one independent qualified to lodge claims. The last claim was lodged on 30 November 2023 and all claims were available to be viewed on the Commission's website from 15 January 2024.

The Commission reimbursed a total of \$46,813.42 for electoral expenditure incurred by eligible parties for the 2023 Rockingham By-Election.

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed under section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*

Agency	Advertising agencies (\$)	Market research organisations (\$)	Polling organisations (\$)	Direct mail organisations (\$)	Media advertising organisations (\$)	Total (\$)
Agricultural Produce Commission ^a						
Bunbury Water Corporation (Aqwest)	0.00	9,700.00	0.00	0.00	10,530.00	20,230.00
Art Gallery of Western Australia	197,741.00	51,341.00	0.00	0.00	369,317.00	618,399.00
Auditor General, Office of the	8,160.71	56,780.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	64,940.77
Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of	97,135.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	171,534.09	268,669.59
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	61,303.00	8,160.00	11,712.00	988.00	5,014.00	87,177.00
Construction Training Fund	404,314.00	55,389.00	0.00	6,353.00	509,988.00	976,044.00
Burswood Park Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Busselton Water Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,038.00	22,395.00	41,433.00
Central Regional TAFE ^d	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	112,609.77	112,609.77
ChemCentre	9,414.25	828.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,242.25
Child and Adolescent Health Service	470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34,043.00	34,513.00
Coal Miners' Welfare Board ^a						
Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Combat Sports Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Commissioner for Children and Young People	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communities, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	574,398.88	574,398.88
Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia	21,212.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,212.00
Country Health Service, Western Australia	57,306.13	0.00	0.00	241.42	118,273.07	175,820.62
Country Housing Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Curtin University of Technology ^d	1,899,489.00	496,791.00	0.00	0.00	3,195,168.00	5,591,448.00
Development WA	721,786	216,124	0.00	0.00	362,876	1,300,786
Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency	Advertising agencies (\$)	Market research organisations (\$)	Polling organisations (\$)	Direct mail organisations (\$)	Media advertising organisations (\$)	Total (\$)
Disability Services Commission	15,657.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,657.24
East Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Economic Regulation Authority	10,223.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,223.51
Edith Cowan University ^{f, d}	3,087,009.00	151,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,667,401.00	6,905,411.00
Education, Department of	840,804	73,931	0.00	0.00	3,195,282	4,110,017.00
Finance, Department of	0.00	626,285.16	0.00	0.00	457,592.92	1,083,878.08
Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fire and Emergency Services, Department of	182,159.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	582,137.13	764,296.24
Forest Products Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,578.00	15,578.00
Fremantle Ports	0.00	75,370.00	0.00	100.00	87,366.00	162,836.00
Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia ^f	4,174.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	154,720.00	158,894.00
Gascoyne Development Commission	10,205.98	9,040.00	0.00	0.00	211.77	19,457.75
Gold Corporation	1,685,442.00	0.00	0.00	91,089.00	161,951.00	1,938,482.00
Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission	0.00	4,928.00	0.00	359.87	7,735.74	13,023.61
Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB)	0.00	129,424.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	129,424.00
Great Southern Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,424.08	1,424.08
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office	0.00	13,500	0.00	187.00	54,365.00	68,052.00
Health Support Services	35,662.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,662.00
Health, Department of	491,531.00	1,107,900.00	0.00	644.00	3,555,564.00	5,155,639.00
Healthway	0.00	44,340.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,340.45
Horizon Power	1,048,139.71	190,373.05	0.00	1,551.58	628,718.01	1,868,782.35
Housing Authority	190,856.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190,856.00
Information Commissioner of Western Australia, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Infrastructure Western Australia	0.00	26,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,400.00

Agency	Advertising agencies (\$)	Market research organisations (\$)	Polling organisations (\$)	Direct mail organisations (\$)	Media advertising organisations (\$)	Total (\$)
Inspector of Custodial Services, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance Commission of Western Australia	355,647.00	115,825.00	0.00	0.00	5,042.00	476,514.00
Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Department of	87,000.00	209,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,247,000.00	5,543,000.00
Justice, Department of	427,383.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	177,161.00	604,544.00
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	128,135.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	128,135.00
Kimberley Development Commission	3,596.22	4070.00	0.00	41.14	13,421.36	21,128.72
Kimberley Ports Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,868.00	15,868.00
Law Reform Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	32,846.00	0.00	83,160.00	116,006.00
Legal Costs Committee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Practice Board of Western Australia ^e						
Legislative Assembly, Department of	16,967.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,967.00
Legislative Council, Department of ^a						
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	37,068.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,198.00	40,266.00
Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee ^a						
Lotterywest	6,090,245.00	758,513.00	0.00	0.00	12,243,212.00	19,091,970.00
Main Roads Western Australia ^b	0.00	59,000.00	0.00	0.00	94,900.00	153,000.00
Mental Health Commission	5,008,294.00	544,967.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,553,261.00
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board	305.00	32,269.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,574.98
Mid West Development Commission	18,737.00	4,928.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,665.00
Mid West Ports Authority ^a						
Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	215.00	215.00
Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Department of ^f	1,672,038.00	38,103.00	0.00	44,795.00	81,887.00	1,836,823.00

Agency	Advertising agencies (\$)	Market research organisations (\$)	Polling organisations (\$)	Direct mail organisations (\$)	Media advertising organisations (\$)	Total (\$)
Murdoch University ^{c, d}	437,199.00	223,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,094,134.00	3,754,332.00
National Trust of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Metropolitan Health Service	464.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74,048.00	74,512.00
North Metropolitan TAFE ^d	4,700.00	0.00	0.00	6,480.00	71,753.28	82,933.28
North Regional TAFE ^d	127,727.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	197,347.00	325,074.00
Ombudsman Western Australia	17,729.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,729.00
PathWest	1,357.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,357.52
Peel Development Commission	0.00	5,256.00	0.00	3,075.00	36.00	8,367.00
Pilbara Development Commission	677.95	11,371.48	0.00	1,122.09	0.00	13,171.52
Pilbara Ports Authority ^f	93,419.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93,419.00
Planning, Lands and Heritage, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	627,184.00	627,184.00
Postgraduate Medical Council of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Premier and Cabinet, Department of the	1,558,574.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,176,864.00	4,735,438.00
Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of	617,219.00	14,640.00	0.00	0.00	380,646.00	1,012,505.00
Public Advocate, Office of the	37,109.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,109.00
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	150,852.00	150,852.00
Public Transport Authority	555,799.00	325,903.00	0.00	32,973.00	2,480,325.00	3,395,000.00
Public Trustee ^b	1,214.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,107.00	11,351.00
Quadriplegic Centre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Racing and Wagering Western Australia	5,301,000.00	234,000.00	0.00	1,139,000.00	7,164,000.00	13,838,000.00
Rottnest Island Authority	89,132.00	70,143.00	0.00	0.00	283,509.00	442,784.00
Rural Business Development Corporation	2,668.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,668.34

Agency	Advertising agencies (\$)	Market research organisations (\$)	Polling organisations (\$)	Direct mail organisations (\$)	Media advertising organisations (\$)	Total (\$)
School Curriculum and Standards Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small Business Development Corporation	219,930.56	103,355.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	323,285.56
South Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	154,700.00	154,700.00
South Metropolitan TAFE ^d	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,453.50	46,276.32	48,729.82
South Regional TAFE ^d	35,377.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,932.00	86,309.00
South West Development Commission	10,057.34	5,600.00	0.00	3,318.16	13,718.93	32,694.43
Southern Ports	0.00	44,588.00	0.00	0.00	23,923.00	68,511.00
State Library of Western Australia	4,426.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,715.00	6,141.00
State Records Commission ^a						
State Solicitor's Office	2,695.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,695.00
Swan Bells Foundation ^a						
Tourism Western Australia	4,566.00	1,532.00	0.00	0.00	14,027.00	20,125.00
Training and Workforce Development, Department of	776,215.00	44,010.00	0.00	0.00	3,645,804.00	4,466,029.00
Transport, Department of	729,680.00	582,104.00	0.00	0.00	4,733,800.00	6,045,584.00
Treasury Corporation, Western Australian	30,031.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,031.00
Treasury, Department of	2,289,308.59	658,581.54	0.00	0.00	17,846,381.15	20,794,271.28
University of Western Australia ^d	2,512,642.00	321,941.00	0.00	184,218.00	2,738,415.00	5,757,216.00
VenuesWest	0.00	25,742.00	0.00	0.00	314,320.00	340,062.00
Waste Authority	1,675,283.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,675,283.00
Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,835,762.75	1,835,762.75
Water Corporation	1,171,789.00	584,022.00	0.00	0.00	1,281,528.00	3,037,339.00
Western Australian Building Management Authority ^a						
Western Australian Electoral Commission	17,000.00	0.00	0.00	23,000.00	146,000.00	186,000.00
Western Australian Energy Disputes Arbitrator	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency	Advertising agencies (\$)	Market research organisations (\$)	Polling organisations (\$)	Direct mail organisations (\$)	Media advertising organisations (\$)	Total (\$)
Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association	56,301.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	168,969.00	225,270.00
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Department of the Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,151.00	8,151.00
Western Australian Land Information Authority [Landgate]	55,559.84	99,744.22	0.00	0.00	14,693.10	169,997.16
Western Australian Meat Industry Authority	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Western Australian Museum ^f	0.00	115,954.00	0.00	0.00	955,837.00	1,071,789.00
Western Australian Police Force	7,209,590.00	568,018.00	0.00	2,308.00	4,467,299.00	12,247,215.00
Western Power	1,405,154.00	304,575.00	0.00	374,475.00	1,506,422.00	3,590,626.00
Wheatbelt Development Commission	1,335.02	3,980.00	0.00	0.00	259.25	5,574.27
WorkCover Western Australia	9,620.00	0.00	0.00	19,006.00	1,333.00	29,959.00
Work Health and Safety Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zoological Parks Authority ^b	24,686.00	60,555.00	0.00	25.135.00	390,211.00	498,587.00
Total	52,013,595.52	9,522,895.94	44,558.00	1,981,951.76	94,092,540.60	157,652,669.82 ^c

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 At the time of collating this data, the agency reported a figure for their total expenditure that did not equal the sum of the classes of expenditure they disclosed.

^c This figure is the sum of the total expenditure as stated by the agencies. The total expenditure declared, stated in Table 4 of the report, is the total of the figures provided for expenditure relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail, and media advertising organisations. The difference between the two totals is because some agencies round the amount of their total expenditure.

^d Report was for the 2023 calendar year.

^e At the time of collating this data, no annual report was available for the 2023 – 2024 financial year.

^f The agency rounded their figures.

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