

# 2023 Political Finance Annual Report

Report on the operation of  
Part VI of the *Electoral Act 1907*  
for the period ended 30 June 2023



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 175G 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 2022–2023 financial year.

Seven registered political parties lodged annual returns for the 2022–2023 financial year. Fourteen unregistered political parties also lodged returns. Eleven of these unregistered political parties were registered parties for two-thirds of the 2022–2023 financial year. In addition, seven associated entities complied with disclosure obligations by lodging an annual return. Data provided in the annual disclosure returns for the 2022–2023 financial year are detailed on the Commission’s website, [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au).

During the 2022–2023 financial year, party registration activities resulting from the *Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Act 2021* reduced the number of registered political parties. As these parties were registered for part of the 2022–2023 financial year, they were required to lodge an annual return for that disclosure period. However, the disclosure obligations of these parties in subsequent financial years will depend on their activity as unregistered political parties.

Funding and disclosure activity resulting from the 2022 North-West Central By-election also concluded in the 2022–2023 financial year, and this report provides a summary of that activity. Although five by-election returns were submitted after the due date of 3 January 2023, the Commission did not seek to enforce penalties in consideration that the disclosure obligations were fulfilled within approximately a month of the due date.



Robert Kennedy  
**ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER**

# Summary of disclosures and public funding through the 2022–2023 financial year

## 1. Financial disclosures

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

- \$13,423,681.14 in gifts and other income declared by twenty–one political parties.
- \$2,257,719.00 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	2021-2022
Political parties	\$13,423,681.14	\$18,653,798.26
Associated entities	\$2,257,719.00	\$2,293,307.00

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)*<sup>1</sup>, if they are obliged to submit a Federal return. Six political parties and six associated entities met their disclosure requirements by submitting their Federal return for the 2022–2023 reporting period.

### 1.2 2022 North-West Central By-election

Two Independent candidates and nine political parties contested the by-election held on 17 September 2022. Candidates and political parties had until 15 weeks after polling day, or until 3 January 2023, to submit their by-election disclosure returns to the Commission. These returns were available on the Commission’s website from 30 January 2023.

- Candidates declared \$7,410.00 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 \$135,856.52 in electoral expenditure.

<sup>1</sup> The CEA disclosure threshold for individual donations for 2022–2023 was \$15,200, whereas the State threshold was \$2,600.

### 1.3 Part VI disclosures

- Six political parties updated details for their party agent.
- Six political parties were successful with their applications for continued registration during the 2022–2023 financial year.
- The party registration of twelve political parties was cancelled.
- 120 public agencies disclosed to Parliament expenditure of \$139,141,783.57 relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail, and media advertising agencies.

Table 2: Summary of certain expenditure by public agencies during the 2022–2023 financial year

Class of expenditure	Amount of expenditure declared
Advertising agencies	\$39,080,205.25
Market research organisations	\$8,077,092.01
Polling organisations	\$182,859.09
Direct mail organisations	\$1,784,191.84
Media advertising organisations	\$90,017,435.38
<b>Total expenditure declared (120 agencies)</b>	<b>\$139,141,783.57</b>

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 2022 North-West Central By-election, held on 17 September 2022, could submit a claim for reimbursement of their electoral expenditure by 6 February 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 (\$2.13683) per first preference vote received. Four political parties qualified to lodge claims. The last claim was lodged on 6 February 2023, and all claims were available to be viewed on the Commission's website from 7 March 2023.

The Commission reimbursed a total of \$9,186.24 for electoral expenditure incurred by eligible parties for the 2022 North-West Central 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 <sup>a</sup>						
Bunbury Water Corporation (Aqwest)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Art Gallery of Western Australia	117,967.00	50,924.00	0.00	0.00	197,601.00	366,492.00
Auditor General, Office of the	25,938.00	0.00	69,116.00	0.00	0.00	95,054.00
Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of	92,407.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	148,888.70	241,296.40
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	4,875.00	26,670.00	10,912.00	1,140.00	68,239.00	111,836.00
Construction Training Fund	1,096,483.00	36,073.00	0.00	1,076.00	442,274.00	1,575,906.00
Burswood Park Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Busselton Water Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,504.00	26,611.00	44,115.00
ChemCentre	6,270.00	725.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,995.00
Child and Adolescent Health Service <sup>a</sup>						
Coal Miners' Welfare Board <sup>a</sup>						
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	355,080.79	355,080.79
Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia	36,591.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,591.00
Country Health Service, Western Australia	21,496.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	266,348.72	287,845.20
Country Housing Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Development WA	1,329,321.00	115,237.00	0.00	0.00	662,194.00	2,106,752.00
Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disability Services Commission	5,750.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,750.83
East Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Continued.... 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 (\$)
Economic Regulation Authority	24,039.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,039.82
Education, Department of	526,477.00	95,057.00	0.00	0.00	2,497,473.00	3,119,007.00
Finance, Department of	29,278.00	45,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74,578.00
Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fire and Emergency Services, Department of	185,879.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	638,832.00	824,711.00
Forest Products Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,871.77	29,871.77
Fremantle Ports	0.00	79,220.00	0.00	64.42	50,689.50	129,973.92
Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia	760.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	159,157.00	159,917.00
Gascoyne Development Commission	0.00	4,972.00	382.00	0.00	479.94	5,833.94
Gold Corporation	1,560,424.00	0.00	0.00	87,693.00	260,015.00	1,908,132.00
Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission	1,233.35	5,120.00	0.00	0.00	369.62	6,722.97
Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB)	0.00	69,162.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69,162.00
Great Southern Development Commission	0.00	2,548.00	0.00	80.00	3,027.00	5,655.00
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office <sup>a</sup>						
Health Support Services	61,682.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61,682.00
Health, Department of	530,682.00	896,749.00	0.00	1,100.00	1,614,253.00	3,042,784.00
Healthway	0.00	49,717.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,717.80
Horizon Power	1,035,833.04	181,772.50	0.00	3,036.28	441,808.99	1,662,450.81
Housing Authority	190,257.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	130,034.00	320,290.00
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	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	22,189.00	37,725.00	0.00	0.00	5,586.00	65,500.00
Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Department of	0.00	110,000.00	0.00	0.00	12,400,000.00	12,510,000.00

Continued.... 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 (\$)
Justice, Department of	747,784.00	37,502.00	0.00	0.00	207,002.00	992,288.00
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	87,592.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	87,592.00
Kimberley Development Commission	0.00	1,960.00	349.09	30.27	11,867.46	14,206.82
Kimberley Ports Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,227.00	20,227.00
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	19,100.00	0.00	90,701.60	109,801.60
Legal Costs Committee <sup>a</sup>						
Legal Practice Board of Western Australia <sup>a</sup>						
Legislative Assembly, Department of						14,992.00
Legislative Council, Department of <sup>a</sup>						
Liquor Commission of Western Australia	488.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	488.40
Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Department of	58,739.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,097.74	61,836.74
Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee <sup>a</sup>						
Lotterywest	5,821,030.00	601,860.00	0.00	0.00	12,021,408.00	18,444,298.00
Main Roads Western Australia	0.00	332,000.00	0.00	1,800.00	99,900.00	433,700.00
Mental Health Commission	128,121.65	516,436.36	0.00	0.00	5,196,657.87	5,841,215.88
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board	80.00	171,164.00	0.00	0.00	1,124.00	172,368.00
Mid West Development Commission	4,420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,928.00	9,348.00
Mid West Ports Authority <sup>a</sup>						
Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,528.00	2,528.00
Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Department of	720,476.00	95,263.00	0.00	47,130.00	58,856.00	921,725.00
National Trust of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Metropolitan Health Service	95,010.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	104,657.00	199,667.00
Ombudsman Western Australia	16,947.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,947.00

Continued.... 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 (\$)
PathWest	2,360.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,360.83
Peel Development Commission	0.00	4,820.00	0.00	1,934.71	265.71	7,020.42
Pilbara Development Commission	70.91	0.00	0.00	355.37	0.00	426.28
Pilbara Ports Authority	67,207.00	41,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108,307.00
Planning, Lands and Heritage, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	638,803.00	638,803.00
Postgraduate Medical Council of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Premier and Cabinet, Department of the	1,207,656.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,156,676.00	11,364,332.00
Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of	67,319.22	6,593.50	0.00	3,609.79	424,847.12	502,369.63
Public Advocate, Office of the	74,297.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74,297.00
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	219,033.00	219,033.00
Public Transport Authority	546,686.00	265,350.00	0.00	32,558.00	2,452,908.00	3,297,502.00
Public Trustee	7,292.00	37,502.00	0.00	0.00	41,192.00	85,986.00
Quadriplegic Centre						850.00
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Racing and Wagering Western Australia	12,192,000.00	498,000.00	0.00	908,000.00	584,000.00	14,182,000.00
Rottnest Island Authority	128,611.00	135,624.00	0.00	0.00	480,555.00	744,790.00
Rural Business Development Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School Curriculum and Standards Authority	654.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	654.43
Small Business Development Corporation	101,896.00	111,473.00	0.00	0.00	6,210.00	219,579.00
South Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	254,940.00	254,940.00
South West Development Commission	10,118.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,067.73	18,185.93
Southern Ports	0.00	0.00	83,000.00	0.00	20,515.00	103,515.00
State Library of Western Australia	4,495.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,799.00	6,294.00

Continued.... 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 (\$)
State Records Commission <sup>a</sup>						
State Solicitor's Office	1,665.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,665.00
Swan Bells Foundation <sup>a</sup>						
Tourism Western Australia	3,572,000.00	1,750,000.00	0.00	0.00	17,373,000.00	22,695,000.00
Training and Workforce Development, Department of	588,111.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,147,319.00	2,735,430.00
Transport, Department of	829,750.00	356,681.00	0.00	0.00	1,649,081.00	2,835,512.00
Treasury Corporation, Western Australian	17,419.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,419.00
Treasury, Department of	8,368.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	8,868.00
Venues West	0.00	15,257.00	0.00	0.00	274,151.00	289,408.00
Waste Authority	152,230.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	1,263,242.00	1,415,497.00
Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,620,958.13	1,620,958.13
Water Corporation	739,471.49	272,027.00	0.00	0.00	1,845,841.35	2,857,339.84
Western Australian Building Management Authority <sup>a</sup>						
Western Australian Electoral Commission	27,000.00	0.00	0.00	396,000.00	184,000.00	607,000.00
Western Australian Energy Disputes Arbitrator	0.00	285.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	285.00
Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association	35,074.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	171,278.00	206,352.00
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Department of the Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,737.00	14,737.00
Western Australian Land Information Authority [Landgate] <sup>b</sup>	56,305.97	127,614.65	0.00	0.00	67,853.60	261,774.22
Western Australian Meat Industry Authority	2,492.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,492.01
Western Australian Museum	0.00	99,335.00	0.00	0.00	941,951.00	1,041,287.00
Western Australian Police Force	2,223,092.92	369,501.20	0.00	0.00	6,457,744.04	9,050,338.16
Western Power	1,806,351.00	339,015.00	0.00	254,637.00	2,239,910.00	4,639,913.00
Wheatbelt Development Commission	0.00	2,772.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,772.00

Agency	Advertising agencies (\$)	Market research organisations (\$)	Polling organisations (\$)	Direct mail organisations (\$)	Media advertising organisations (\$)	Total (\$)
WorkCover Western Australia	3,172.00	0.00	0.00	13,925.00	45.00	17,142.00
Zoological Parks Authority	20,517.00	80,984.00	0.00	12,493.00	254,224.00	368,218.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,080,205.25</b>	<b>8,077,092.01</b>	<b>182,859.09</b>	<b>1,784,191.84</b>	<b>90,017,435.38</b>	<b>139,167,625.57<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> 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.

<sup>c</sup> 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.

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