Dr Kerry Schott – Chair
Expert Panel on Political Donations
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

POLITICAL DONATIONS REFORM

Dear Dr Schott,

I wish to make the following submission to the Panel.

EXISTING NSW LEGISLATION; I believe the existing NSW Legislation is floored and will continue to be floored until significant reform is enacted.

I make that statement in light of the Federal Courts ruling that under the Australian Constitution individuals and entities have the constitutional right to support / donate to the political party of their choice. Any new reform Legislation should reflect that fact.

With that in mind I make the following broad recommendation to the Panel.

RECOMMENDATION; That all political party donations by individuals or entities, must be directed through a common Government appointed “front door”. That is, not make donations direct to the political party of their choice. The Government appointed / designated “front door” could be for instance the NSW Electoral Commission or branch thereof or similar body.

On receipt of that donation the designated “front door” would record the donation, amount and donor, onto a public register, and bank them in appropriate accounts.

The donations periodically would be summarised, totalled and transferred to the relative political party intended. This would avoid Political parties endeavouring to camouflage donations. There may be issues surrounding those individuals who wish to donate anonymously, which may be their right. Consideration could be given to limiting these anonymous individual donations to say under $1000.

CONCLUSION: This is intended as a constructive suggestion which no doubt would require much further thought and consideration. However it is the broad principal not the detail that I submit.

Yours Sincerely

Alan Fredericks

Alan Fredericks