Panel of Experts – Political Donations

Submitted by Reno M Aprile

Date: 17 September 2014
Dear Panel members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some input into a most important issue.

I write to you not as an expert in this field but rather as someone who has been exposed to the political process both here in New South Wales and in the United States where I resided for some fifteen years.

Like many, I am most concerned about the issue of political funding and recognise the need for a better system. Having given thought to this issue for some time I am very sensitive to any attempt at reform that fails to properly consider the full impact any change might have on the decision and law making process of government as a whole.

In my opinion the following tests should be applied to any reforms:

- The election process should be an open and fair contest between candidates.

- Elected representatives should be accessible to their constituents and be empowered to contribute to the decision and law making process in a meaningful and productive way without fear or favour.

The role, conduct and influence of: contributors; political party machinery; interest or pressure groups; the public service; and media should be carefully examined.

Reno M. Aprile