

2014–2015 Political Finance Annual Report

Report on the operation of
Part VI of the *Electoral Act 1907*
for the period ended 30 June 2015



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

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Introduction



2014–2015 Political Finance Annual Report

The Western Australian political finance environment increasingly reflects a surge of activity in anticipation of the next State election to be held in 2017. As a result, the Western Australian Electoral Commission (the Commission) has been reviewing means of assisting political parties and their associated entities to achieve their compliance obligations. Challenges are particularly relevant to those parties that are not listed in the register of political parties and whose activity and presence at a State level is not easily qualified.

The increasing political activity may explain the larger number of unregistered political parties that submitted annual disclosures for the 2014–2015 financial year. In spite of this, no political parties were added or removed from the political parties register during the 2014–2015 financial year. Political parties continue to meet lodgement obligations as specified by the *Electoral Act 1907* (the Act). However, late changes and amendments were received by the Commission from some parties pertaining to the 2014–2015 financial year, as well as the 2013–2014 and 2012–2013 financial years.

Political activity does not necessarily coincide with donations and income, as eight of the fifteen political parties that provided an annual disclosure for the 2014–2015 financial year received less than the specified amount of \$2,300 in gifts and other income. These parties, generally, have limited resources such that the administrative ask of compliance obligations can be significant for them. However, the overarching consideration is that donations received prior to an election can still be used for the purposes of the election campaign, regardless of the parties' resources or size. It is in this regard that the transparency and accountability of gifts and income is important.

The 2014 Vasse by-election was the only electoral event in the 2014–2015 financial year that required financial disclosure and where candidates were entitled to submit claims for electoral funding reimbursement. Disclosures relating to the by-election, and claims for electoral funding, were compliant with the requirements of the Act.

This report is prepared to meet the obligation under section 175ZG of the Act to submit an annual report to the Minister, and subsequently each House of Parliament. It does not propose any recommendations, although the Commission continues to support the recommendations contained in previous reports. Data provided in financial disclosure returns, as well as copies of the returns, are detailed online on the Commission website, www.elections.wa.gov.au.

David Kerslake

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

Summary of disclosures and public funding through 2014–2015



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1. Financial disclosures

1.1 Annual returns by political parties and associated entities

- \$8,272,244.98 in gifts and other income was declared by 15 political parties.
- \$3,634,627.00 in gifts and other income was declared by five associated entities.
- One annual disclosure was received four days after the deadline.
- One political party submitted an amendment to their 2014–2015 disclosure in March 2016.

- The Federal election and Senate re-count was held during the 2013–2014 financial year.
- Two amendments were received for the 2013–2014 financial year. The table above includes the updated figures for the 2013–2014 financial year.
- The Vasse by-election was held during the 2014–2015 financial year.

Two amendments were also received for the 2012–2013 financial year. The total gifts and other income, for the 2012–2013 financial year, declared by political parties is \$20,677,384.32 and by associated entities is \$1,396,210.00, including the amounts contained in the amendments.

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*¹, if they are obliged to submit a Federal return. Three registered political parties met their disclosure requirements by submitting their Federal return for the 2014–2015 reporting period.

¹ The CEA disclosure threshold for individual donations for 2014–2015 was \$12,800, whereas the State threshold was \$2,300.

Table 1: Comparison of disclosure returns

Gifts & other income declared by:	Financial year		Difference
	2014–2015	2013–2014	
Political parties	\$8,272,244.98	\$18,380,883.36	-75.85%
Associated entities	\$3,634,627.00	\$1,388,650.00	89.42%

continued ...

Summary of disclosures and public funding through 2014–2015



2014–2015 Political Finance Annual Report

1.2 2014 Vasse by-election

The by-election was held on Saturday, 18 October 2014. Candidates and political parties had until 15 weeks after polling day, or 2 February 2015, to submit their by-election disclosure returns to the Commission. These returns were available online for public inspection 19 weeks after polling day.

- \$1,500.00 in total gifts was declared.
- Gifts not disclosed by party-endorsed candidates are incorporated into the annual return of the relevant party.
- \$193,424.79 in electoral expenditure was declared.

1.3 Part VI disclosures

- Three political parties updated their party agent details.
- One political party changed its party secretary.
- 152 public agencies disclosed to Parliament expenditure of \$88,260,545.65 relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising agencies.

Table 2: Summary of certain expenditure by public agencies 2014–2015

Class of expenditure	Amount of expenditure declared
Advertising agencies	\$33,300,478.97
Market research organisations	\$6,402,921.13
Polling organisations	\$31,453.00
Direct mail organisations	\$2,659,797.42
Media advertising agencies	\$45,865,895.13
Total expenditure declared (152 agencies) \$88,260,545.65	

Appendix 1 lists the specific details of the classes of expenditure disclosed by various public agencies.

continued ...

Summary of disclosures and public funding through 2014–2015



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2. Public funding

Reimbursement of electoral expenditure is authorised where the 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 (\$1.83007) per first preference vote received. Eligible candidates, or their party agent, were required to submit a claim within 20 weeks after polling day in order to receive any public funding for the Vasse by-election. Four candidates qualified to claim reimbursement of electoral expenditure, however, one claim was received after the deadline. The three eligible claims were finalised by 13 February 2015.

Table 3: Summary of electoral funding reimbursement at the 2014 Vasse by-election

Candidate & Party name	Number of first preference votes	Amount paid
BALDOCK, Michael (The Greens (WA))	3,567	\$6,332.99
GORDON, Peter (THE NATIONALS)	5,656	\$10,350.88
METTAM, Libby (Liberal Party)	8,805	\$16,113.77
		Total \$32,797.64

Appendix: Summary of expenditure by agencies and statutory authorities required to declare expenditure under section 175ZE of the Act

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Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Aboriginal Affairs, Department of	49,470.95	35,925.00	0.00	2,056.30	16,284.56	103,736.81
Agricultural Produce Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Agriculture and Food, Department of	286,155.00	11,940.00	0.00	5,523.00	102,113.00	405,731.00
Animal Resources Authority	1,122.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,419.00	27,541.00
Aqwest	0.00	11,975.00	0.00	0.00	17,354.00	29,329.00
Architects Board of Western Australia	3,271.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,271.40
Art Gallery of Western Australia	32,735.00	72,292.00	0.00	0.00	231,135.00	336,162.00
Attorney General, Department of the	257,008.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65,548.00	322,556.00
Auditor General, Office of the	1,226.00	66,972.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68,198.00
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	7,935.00	1,463.38	11,055.00	0.00	23,537.99	43,991.37
Building and Construction Industry Training Board	152,062.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	571,569.31	723,632.25
Burswood Park Board	5,232.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,090.00	19,322.00
Busselton Water Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,757.00	28,757.00
Central Institute of Technology ¹	51,621.31	76,000.00	0.00	0.00	288,564.78	416,186.09
Challenger Institute of Technology ¹	16,980.00	0.00	0.00	7,450.00	150,508.00	174,938.00
ChemCentre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Child Protection and Family Support, Department for	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	83,048.00	83,049.00
Coal Miners' Welfare Board of Western Australia ²						
Coastal Shipping Commission, Western Australian	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

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure by agencies and statutory authorities required to declare expenditure under section 175ZE of the Act



2014–2015 Political Finance Annual Report

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Commerce, Department of ³	20,959.00	0.00	0.00	3,337.00	212,344.00	236,640.00
Commissioner for Children and Young People	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,986.70	1,986.70
Conservation Commission of Western Australia ²						
Construction Industry Long Service Leave Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corrective Services, Department of	176,637.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	176,637.00
Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Country Health Service, Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,495.00	21,495.00
Country High School Hostels Authority	13,604.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,025.00	40,629.00
Country Housing Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Culture and the Arts, Department of	0.00	9,700.00	20,170.00	0.00	24,240.00	54,110.00
Curtin University of Technology ¹	2,603,728.00	194,870.00	0.00	20,548.00	3,526,803.00	6,345,949.00
CY O'Connor Institute ¹	125,954.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125,954.87
Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disability Services Commission	109,394.00	63,554.00	0.00	30,786.00	457,194.00	660,929.00
Drug and Alcohol Office	401,019.33	202,514.00	0.00	0.00	2,119,934.10	2,723,467.43
Durack Institute of Technology ¹	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,801.87	175,134.02	176,935.89
Economic Regulation Authority	0.00	2,422.50	0.00	0.00	30,230.44	32,652.94
Edith Cowan University ¹	3,421,085.00	5,515.00	0.00	0.00	1,851,519.00	5,278,119.00
Education Services, Department of	3,536.42	0.00	0.00	372.00	948.89	4,857.31
Education, Department of	937,774.00	68,395.00	0.00	0.00	860,015.00	1,866,184.00

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Appendix: Summary of expenditure by agencies and statutory authorities required to declare expenditure under section 175ZE of the Act



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Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Environment Regulation, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	271,342.00	271,342.00
Environmental Protection Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	783.00	8,258.00	9,041.00
Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Finance, Department of	348,438.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	348,438.00
Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fire and Emergency Services, Department of	15,886.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53,913.00	69,799.00
Fisheries, Department of	130,319.00	49,774.00	0.00	0.00	61,214.00	241,307.00
Forest Products Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,600.00	17,600.00
Fremantle Ports	0.00	51,850.00	0.00	0.00	83,128.35	134,978.35
Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gascoyne Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,114.00	10,114.00
Gold Corporation	65,773.00	0.00	0.00	267,641.00	361,962.00	695,376.00
Goldfields Esperance Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,761.00	2,761.00
Goldfields Institute of Technology ¹	7,340.00	0.00	0.00	6,184.00	127,731.00	141,255.00
Government Employees Superannuation Board	2,250.00	61,338.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,588.20
Governors Establishment ²						
Great Southern Development Commission	0.00	6,699.00	228.00	0.00	7,252.00	14,179.00
Great Southern Institute of Technology ¹	6,864.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,377.52	77,242.08
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office	13,989.80	0.00	0.00	137.74	0.00	14,127.54
Health, Department of	181,001.00	988,594.00	0.00	30,603.00	1,089,099.00	2,289,297.00

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Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Healthway	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,485.00	1,485.00
Heritage Council of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,272.56	6,272.56
Horizon Power	194,245.00	39,650.00	0.00	0.00	306,236.00	540,131.00
Housing Authority	331,744.00	0.00	0.00	217,829.00	619,197.00	1,168,770.00
Housing, Department of ²						
Independent Market Operator	6,832.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,832.00
Inspector of Custodial Services, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance Commission of Western Australia	12,994.00	55,268.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68,262.00
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84,537.00	84,537.00
Kimberley Development Commission	7,158.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,158.39
Kimberley Ports Authority	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,234.40	28,234.40
Kimberley Training Institute ¹	88,479.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88,479.00
Land Information Authority, Western Australian [Landgate]	299,857.91	343,372.50	0.00	5,562.97	36,928.00	685,721.38
LandCorp	1,266,666.00	246,293.00	0.00	0.00	890,437.00	2,403,396.00
Lands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	86.00	86.00
Law Reform Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Aid Western Australia	993.94	23,121.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,114.94
Legal Costs Committee ²						
Legal Practice Board of Western Australia ²						
Legislative Assembly, Department of ²						

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure by agencies and statutory authorities required to declare expenditure under section 175ZE of the Act



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Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Legislative Council, Department of ²						
Liquor Commission of Western Australia						328.00
Local Government and Communities, Department of	130,175.00	26,450.00	0.00	7,571.00	159,902.00	324,098.00
Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee ²						
Lotterywest	3,568,707.00	462.00	0.00	74,337.00	12,454,515.00	16,098,021.00
Main Roads Western Australia	3,802,200.00	0.00	0.00	7,600.00	39,500.00	3,849,300.00
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meat Industry Authority, Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mental Health Commission	35,500.12	667.64	0.00	0.00	12,653.86	48,821.62
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board	0.00	24,779.00	0.00	0.00	3,731.00	28,510.00
Metropolitan Health Service	18,213.00	11,042.00	0.00	0.00	304,992.00	334,247.00
Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority	869,221.00	57,290.00	0.00	0.00	632,426.00	1,558,937.00
Mid West Ports Authority ²						
Mid-West Development Commission	8,705.00	4,310.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,015.00
Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia	4,284.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,284.00
Mines and Petroleum, Department of	0.00	1,020.00	0.00	11,509.39	82,698.88	95,228.27
Murdoch University ¹	828,854.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,230,120.00	3,058,974.00
National Trust of Australia (WA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Office of the Information Commissioner	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ombudsman, Office of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,612.00	4,612.00

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Appendix: Summary of expenditure by agencies and statutory authorities required to declare expenditure under section 175ZE of the Act



2014–2015 Political Finance Annual Report

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Parks and Wildlife, Department of	43,642.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	76,691.71	120,334.23
Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parliamentary Services Department ²						
Peel Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,394.00	16,394.00
Perth Market Authority	90,299.53	114,923.45	0.00	0.00	55,763.14	260,986.12
Perth Theatre Trust	49,513.00	0.00	0.00	2,973.00	1,100.00	53,986.00
Pilbara Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,249.00	15,249.00
Pilbara Institute ¹	102,045.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	102,045.00
Pilbara Ports Authority	173,842.00	49,550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	223,392.00
Planning , Department of ⁴	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,025.00	16,025.00
Planning Commission, Western Australian	0.00	14,980.00	0.00	0.00	169,141.00	184,121.00
Police, Western Australian	454,299.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,774,414.81	2,228,714.43
Polytechnic West ¹	204,871.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	204,871.00
Potato Marketing Corporation of Western Australia	498,494.00	32,720.00	0.00	0.00	734,978.00	1,266,192.00
Premier and Cabinet, Department of the	22,014.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,014.00
Public Advocate, Office of the	8,580.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,580.00
Public Education Endowment Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Sector Commission	120,832.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,505.00	125,337.00
Public Transport Authority	971,901.00	674,838.00	0.00	0.00	84,775.00	1,731,514.00

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Appendix: Summary of expenditure by agencies and statutory authorities required to declare expenditure under section 175ZE of the Act



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Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Public Trustee	75,383.05	28,000.00	0.00	0.00	26,428.88	129,811.93
Quadriplegic Centre Board of Management	24,970.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,970.45
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Racing and Wagering Western Australia	1,630,000.00	546,000.00	0.00	115,000.00	4,577,000.00	6,868,000.00
Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Racing, Gaming and Liquor, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,140.00	2,140.00
Regional Development, Department of	0.00	53,015.00	0.00	62,475.00	590,799.00	706,289.00
Registrar, Department of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,637.46	10,637.46
Rottnest Island Authority	0.00	55,710.20	0.00	0.00	485,442.50	541,152.70
Rural Business Development Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School Curriculum and Standards Authority	2,282.00	0.00	0.00	6,466.00	0.00	8,748.00
Screen West	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,155.68	2,155.68
Small Business Development Corporation	0.00	34,000.51	0.00	0.00	13,440.00	47,440.51
South West Development Commission	0.00	11,990.00	0.00	0.00	10,069.00	22,059.00
South West Institute of Technology ¹	14,621.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	113,814.50	128,435.59
Southern Ports Authority	20,987.28	6,355.00	0.00	6,197.78	34,192.65	67,732.71
Sport and Recreation, Department of	27,745.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,745.89
State Development, Department of	60,328.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,601.00	92,929.00
State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and Secretariat	0.00	4,225.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,225.00

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Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
State Library of Western Australia	1,987.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	229,869.00	231,856.00
State Supply Commission ²						
State Training Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swan Bells Foundation ²						
Swan River Trust	95,197.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,530.73	96,728.24
Synergy ²						
Tourism Western Australia	2,768.00	1,854.00	0.00	0.00	6,085.00	10,707.00
Training and Workforce Development, Department of	177,788.00	89,964.00	0.00	10,097.00	297,067.00	574,916.00
Transport, Department of	15,740.00	89,950.00	0.00	0.00	300,680.00	256,030.00
Treasury Corporation, Western Australian	23,018.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,018.00
Treasury, Department of	25,712.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,712.00
University of Western Australia ¹	3,682,078.00	156,412.00	0.00	14,550.00	1,713,497.00	5,566,537.00
VenuesWest	0.00	19,510.00	0.00	0.00	99,739.21	119,249.21
Veterinary Surgeons' Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Waste Authority	12,573.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,573.00
Water Corporation	1,502,378.00	958,638.00	0.00	0.00	1,644,669.00	4,105,685.00
Water, Department of	29,491.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,472.00	73,963.00
West Coast Institute of Training ¹	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175,984.47	175,984.47
Western Australian Building Management Authority ²						
Western Australian Electoral Commission	140,569.09	0.00	0.00	338,062.37	221,876.00	700,507.46

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Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Western Australian Energy Disputes Arbitrator	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association	11,527.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	135,631.00	147,158.00
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Department of the Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,637.46	10,637.46
Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS) ²						
Western Australian Meat Industry Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Australian Museum	0.00	77,614.75	0.00	0.00	398,884.57	476,499.32
Western Power	1,958,039.00	510,582.00	0.00	1,356,221.00	575,754.00	4,400,596.00
Wheatbelt Development Commission	0.00	1,346.00	0.00	0.00	1,762.00	3,108.00
WorkCover Western Australia	4,688.00	8,387.00	0.00	6,733.00	1,360.00	21,168.00
Zoological Parks Authority	90,072.00	46,838.00	0.00	39,390.00	172,526.00	348,826.00
Total	33,300,478.97	6,402,921.13	31,453.00	2,659,797.42	45,865,895.13	88,110,935.65⁵

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

¹ Report was for the calendar year to 31 December 2015.

² Did not report on section 175ZE of the Act.

³ Includes the Commission for Occupational Safety and Health.

⁴ Includes Development Assessment Panels.

⁵ Four agencies have 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 the agencies. The total expenditure declared, stated in Table 2 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.

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