

# Political Finance Annual Report

Report on the operation of  
Part VI of the *Electoral Act 1907*  
for the period ended 30 June 2016



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

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## Introduction

2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

In accordance with section 175ZG of the *Electoral Act 1907* (the Act), this report on the operation of Part VI of the Act during the 2015–2016 financial year has been prepared for submission to the Minister, and subsequently each House of Parliament. This report does not seek to present any recommendations concerning the operation of or compliance with Part VI of the Act, as the financial year that is the focus of this report was a period of typical proceedings and, therefore, did not highlight any potential courses of action that have not been proposed in previous reports.

The Commission noted, as it has in the past, that the difference between the Federal disclosure threshold and the State disclosure threshold continues to increase. In the 2015–2016 financial year the difference between the two thresholds was \$10,700, as the Federal disclosure threshold was \$13,000 and the State disclosure threshold was \$2,300. This difference between the two thresholds will continue to grow as the Federal disclosure threshold is indexed on an annual basis whilst the State disclosure threshold is re-calculated after a State General Election every four years. This discrepancy between the disclosure thresholds relates to the operation of Part VI of the Act because current legislation permits political parties to submit a Federal return to meet their State obligations.

The operation of Part VI of the Act during the 2015–2016 financial year consisted solely of annual financial disclosure obligations by political parties and their associated entities, as there were no electoral events and no new political party registrations during the 2015–2016 financial year. Political parties and associated entities met their financial disclosure obligations under the Act. Data provided in financial disclosure returns submitted for the 2015–2016 financial year, as well as copies of the returns, are detailed online on the Commission website, [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au).



David Kerslake

**ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER**

# Summary of disclosures and public funding through 2015–2016 financial year

2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

## 1. Financial disclosures

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

- \$16,216,039.63 in gifts and other income was declared by 16 political parties.
- \$1,572,222.00 in gifts and other income was declared by five associated entities.
- One political party submitted an amendment to their 2015–2016 disclosure in December 2016.

Table 1: Comparison of disclosure returns

Gifts & other income declared by:	Financial year		Difference
	2015–2016	2014–2015	
Political parties	\$16,216,039.63	\$8,272,244.98	48.99%
Associated entities	\$1,572,222.00	\$3,634,627.00	-131.18%

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*<sup>1</sup>, if they are obliged to submit a Federal return. Four registered political parties met their disclosure requirements by submitting their Federal return for the 2015–2016 reporting period.

<sup>1</sup> The CEA disclosure threshold for individual donations for 2015–2016 was \$13,000, whereas the State threshold was \$2,300.

### 1.2 Part VI disclosures

- One political party amended their party name and abbreviation during the 2015–2016 financial year.
- Five political parties updated details for their party agent.
- Three political parties changed their party secretary.
- 151 public agencies disclosed to Parliament expenditure of \$94,413,777.11 relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising agencies.

Table 2: Summary of certain expenditure by public agencies during the 2015–2016 financial year

Class of expenditure	Amount of expenditure declared
Advertising agencies	\$37,591,642.58
Market research organisations	\$6,929,223.69
Polling organisations	\$10,828.00
Direct mail organisations	\$3,636,925.10
Media advertising agencies	\$46,245,157.74
<b>Total expenditure declared (151 agencies)</b>	<b>\$94,413,777.11</b>

The appendix to this report lists the specific details of the classes of expenditure disclosed by various public agencies.

## 2. Public funding

There were no electoral events that attracted public funding for the 2015–2016 financial year.

## Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act

2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Aboriginal Affairs, Department of	17,246.00	0.00	0.00	3,743.00	0.00	<b>20,989.00</b>
Agricultural Produce Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Agriculture and Food, Department of	7,127.00	0.00	0.00	2,708.00	313,514.00	<b>323,349.00</b>
Animal Resources Authority	35,201.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,181.00	<b>37,382.00</b>
Aqwest	0.00	9,976.00	0.00	0.00	10,301.00	<b>20,277.00</b>
Architects Board of Western Australia	4,078.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>4,078.00</b>
Art Gallery of Western Australia	94,719.00	112,850.00	0.00	0.00	146,979.00	<b>354,548.00</b>
Attorney General, Department of the	281,928.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34,046.00	<b>315,974.00</b>
Auditor General, Office of the	2,728.29	38,906.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>71,364.89</b>
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	16,236.55	5,848.84	9,820.00	1,440.28	59,471.63	<b>92,817.30</b>
Building and Construction Industry Training Board	87,988.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	541,231.00	<b>629,219.00</b>
Burswood Park Board	3,881.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,045.00	<b>16,926.00</b>
Busselton Water Corporation	9,550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,791.00	<b>16,341.00</b>
Central Institute of Technology <sup>a</sup>	11,240.57	14,386.85	0.00	0.00	24,039.81	<b>49,667.23</b>
Central Regional TAFE <sup>b</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	176,823.28	<b>176,823.28</b>
Challenger Institute of Technology <sup>a</sup>	131,612.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,011.00	<b>151,623.00</b>
ChemCentre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Child Protection and Family Support, Department for	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	111,710.00	<b>111,710.00</b>
Coastal Shipping Commission, Western Australian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Combat Sports Commission	2,593.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>2,593.06</b>
Commerce, Department of	52,889.00	0.00	0.00	2,917.00	19,363.00	<b>75,169.00</b>
Commissioner for Children and Young People	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,475.00	<b>1,475.00</b>

continued ...

**Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act**



2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Corrective Services, Department of	79,601.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>79,601.00</b>
Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Country Health Service, Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,794.00	<b>72,794.00</b>
Country High School Hostels Authority	6,418.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,024.00	<b>30,442.00</b>
Culture and the Arts, Department of	0.00	13,425.00	0.00	0.00	9,734.00	<b>23,159.00</b>
Curtin University of Technology <sup>b</sup>	2,715,746.00	176,950.00	0.00	0.00	2,948,107.00	<b>5,840,803.00</b>
CY O'Connor Institute <sup>a</sup>	10,843.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,001.38	<b>19,845.10</b>
Department of Planning and Development Assessment Panels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,847.00	<b>7,847.00</b>
Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Disability Services Commission	41,272.00	65,780.00	0.00	11,892.00	8,293.00	<b>127,237.00</b>
Durack Institute of Technology <sup>a</sup>	0.00	31,750.00	0.00	0.00	46,092.00	<b>77,842.00</b>
Economic Regulation Authority	21,735.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>21,735.15</b>
Edith Cowan University <sup>b</sup>	3,224,542.00	51,280.00	0.00	0.00	1,923,959.00	<b>5,199,781.00</b>
Education Services, Department of	520.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	950.02	<b>1,470.02</b>
Education, Department of	633,564.00	55,305.00	0.00	0.00	393,825.00	<b>1,082,694.00</b>
Environment Regulation, Department of	0.00	47,747.00	0.00	0.00	261,706.00	<b>309,453.00</b>
Environmental Protection Authority, Office of the <sup>a</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	592.00	5,160.00	<b>5,943.00</b>
Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	780.00	824.64	0.00	<b>1,604.64</b>
Finance, Department of	83,552.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>83,552.00</b>
Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Fire and Emergency Services, Department of	40,552.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,126.00	<b>50,678.00</b>
Fisheries, Department of <sup>a</sup>	61,743.00	0.00	0.00	422,685.00	44,846.00	<b>559,310.00</b>

continued ...

**Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act**



2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Forest Products Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,544.00	<b>22,544.00</b>
Fremantle Ports	0.00	52,665.00	0.00	21,129.95	54,425.92	<b>128,220.87</b>
Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia	1,698.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>1,698.55</b>
Gascoyne Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,114.00	<b>10,114.00</b>
Gold Corporation	234,783.00	0.00	0.00	370,099.00	276,342.00	<b>881,224.00</b>
Goldfields Institute of Technology <sup>a</sup>	597.01	0.00	0.00	9,408.87	38,253.76	<b>37,335.65</b>
Government Chief Information Officer, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB)	12,034.00	69,531.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>81,565.00</b>
Great Southern Development Commission	0.00	3,045.00	228.00	0.00	4,679.00	<b>7,952.00</b>
Great Southern Institute of Technology <sup>a</sup>						<b>44,130.27</b>
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office	6,248.00	0.00	0.00	697.00	23.00	<b>6,968.00</b>
Health, Department of	284,353.00	1,093,195.00	0.00	77,841.00	1,294,991.00	<b>2,750,380.00</b>
Healthway	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,727.00	<b>2,727.00</b>
Heritage Council of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	320,137.00	<b>320,137.00</b>
Horizon Power	144,399.00	159,660.00	0.00	0.00	231,499.00	<b>535,558.00</b>
Housing Authority	43,163.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	976,248.00	<b>1,019,411.00</b>
Independent Market Operator	4,211.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>4,211.00</b>
Information Commissioner of Western Australia, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Inspector of Custodial Services, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Insurance Commission of Western Australia	4,583.00	53,116.00	0.00	0.00	305,080.00	<b>362,779.00</b>
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,565.00	<b>24,565.00</b>
Kimberley Development Commission	7,087.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>7,087.10</b>
Kimberley Ports Authority <sup>a</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,511.00	<b>27,510.00</b>



continued ...

**Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act**

2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT



Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Kimberley Training Institute <sup>a</sup>	24,113.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	839.00	<b>24,952.00</b>
LandCorp	1,947,410.00	252,555.00	0.00	0.00	844,581.00	<b>3,044,546.00</b>
Lands, Department of	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	97,000.00	<b>103,000.00</b>
Law Reform Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Legal Aid Western Australia	441.70	9,815.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	<b>10,456.70</b>
Liquor Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Local Government and Communities, Department of	51,584.00	137,465.00	0.00	0.00	53,728.00	<b>242,777.00</b>
LotteryWest	3,696,649.00	120,868.00	0.00	120,450.00	16,168,553.00	<b>20,106,520.00</b>
Main Roads Western Australia <sup>a</sup>	692,500.00	69,100.00	0.00	0.00	522,900.00	<b>1,291,300.00</b>
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Mental Health Advocacy Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	457.00	<b>457.00</b>
Mental Health Commission	120,763.77	150,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,275,737.37	<b>2,547,001.14</b>
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board	0.00	15,034.00	0.00	0.00	21,459.00	<b>36,493.00</b>
Metropolitan Health Service	2,236.00	783,794.00	0.00	5,152.00	217,852.00	<b>1,009,034.00</b>
Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority	1,200,236.00	143,520.00	0.00	0.00	768,548.00	<b>2,112,304.00</b>
Mid West Development Commission	9,735.00	4,310.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>14,045.00</b>
Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia	7,209.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>7,209.00</b>
Mines and Petroleum, Department of	0.00	36,570.00	0.00	77,513.05	429,033.47	<b>543,116.52</b>
Murdoch University <sup>b</sup>	750,865.00	153,650.00	0.00	0.00	2,312,439.00	<b>3,216,954.00</b>
National Trust of Australia (WA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
North Metropolitan TAFE <sup>b</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,050.00	<b>350,050.00</b>
North Regional TAFE <sup>b</sup>	170,400.00	0.00	0.00	417.00	0.00	<b>170,817.00</b>
Ombudsman Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,605.00	<b>22,605.00</b>



continued ...

**Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act**



2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Parks and Wildlife, Department of	62,427.00	22,528.00	0.00	0.00	214,751.00	<b>299,706.00</b>
Peel Development Commission	0.00	2,995.00	0.00	0.00	5,418.00	<b>8,413.00</b>
Perth Market Authority	71,424.27	96,157.45	0.00	0.00	22,112.95	<b>189,694.67</b>
Perth Theatre Trust	70,218.00	0.00	0.00	6,513.00	0.00	<b>76,731.00</b>
Pilbara Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,490.00	<b>8,490.00</b>
Pilbara Institute <sup>a</sup>	3,895.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>3,895.00</b>
Pilbara Ports Authority	131,890.00	58,900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>190,790.00</b>
Planning Commission, Western Australian	267,578.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>267,578.86</b>
Polytechnic West <sup>a</sup>	53,725.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>53,725.00</b>
Potato Marketing Corporation of Western Australia	202,107.00	32,720.00	0.00	0.00	364,285.00	<b>599,112.00</b>
Premier and Cabinet, Department of the	63,654.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>63,654.20</b>
Public Advocate, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,498.00	<b>7,498.00</b>
Public Education Endowment Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Public Sector Commission	153,145.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,272.00	<b>158,417.00</b>
Public Transport Authority	1,025,010.00	395,819.00	0.00	0.00	103,547.00	<b>1,524,376.00</b>
Public Trustee	3,300.00	35,190.00	0.00	0.00	44,854.00	<b>83,344.00</b>
Quadriplegic Centre Board of Management	688.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>688.56</b>
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Racing and Wagering Western Australia	5,685,000.00	271,000.00	0.00	87,000.00	2,700,000.00	<b>8,743,000.00</b>
Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Racing, Gaming and Liquor, Department of	13,182.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00	429.00	<b>15,411.00</b>
Regional Development, Department of	1,667.00	5,448.00	0.00	5,735.00	95,454.00	<b>108,304.00</b>
Road Safety Commission	3,421,117.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,856.29	<b>3,422,973.52</b>

continued ...

**Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act**



2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Rottnest Island Authority	45,556.00	155,490.00	0.00	0.00	318,744.00	<b>519,790.00</b>
Rural Business Development Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
School Curriculum and Standards Authority	2,162.00	0.00	0.00	3,395.00	0.00	<b>5,557.00</b>
Screen West	0.00	5,775.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>5,775.00</b>
Small Business Development Corporation	0.00	69,267.00	0.00	0.00	48,628.00	<b>117,895.00</b>
South Metropolitan TAFE <sup>b</sup>	57,192.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	169,950.71	<b>227,143.22</b>
South Regional TAFE <sup>b</sup>	22,299.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	183,386.33	<b>205,685.62</b>
South West Development Commission	0.00	11,350.00	0.00	0.00	16,582.00	<b>27,932.00</b>
South West Institute of Technology <sup>a</sup>	7,818.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48,814.00	<b>56,632.00</b>
Southern Ports Authority	8,447.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	14,106.00	<b>27,553.00</b>
Sport and Recreation, Department of	26,971.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>26,971.74</b>
State Development, Department of	141,206.00	47,766.00	0.00	0.00	44,946.00	<b>233,918.00</b>
State Emergency Management Committee and Secretariat	1,494.00	18,675.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>20,169.00</b>
State Library of Western Australia	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,527.00	<b>38,527.00</b>
State Training Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Tourism Western Australia	3,963.00	1,363.00	0.00	0.00	8,055.00	<b>13,381.00</b>
Transport, Department of	101,477.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	117,160.00	<b>218,637.00</b>
Treasury Corporation, Western Australian	14,546.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>14,546.00</b>
Treasury, Department of	10,417.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>10,417.00</b>
University of Western Australia <sup>b</sup>	3,394,735.00	92,712.00	0.00	37,903.00	542,132.00	<b>4,067,482.00</b>
VenuesWest	0.00	11,998.95	0.00	4,015.34	122,808.07	<b>138,822.36</b>
Veterinary Surgeons Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Waste Authority	15,199.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>

continued ...

**Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act**

2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Water Corporation	1,948,462.00	779,610.00	0.00	0.00	3,026,682.00	<b>5,754,754.00</b>
Water, Department of <sup>a</sup>	21,637.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>71,637.17</b>
West Coast Institute of Training <sup>a</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,497.00	<b>19,497.00</b>
Western Australian Electoral Commission	200,043.96	0.00	0.00	1,068,176.97	225,156.28	<b>1,493,377.21</b>
Western Australian Energy Disputes Arbitrator	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association	22,776.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	145,591.00	<b>168,367.00</b>
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Department of the Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,870.00	<b>15,870.00</b>
Western Australian Land Information Authority [Landgate]	37,685.00	179,264.00	0.00	6,042.00	76,797.00	<b>299,788.00</b>
Western Australian Meat Industry Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Western Australian Museum	0.00	143,018.00	0.00	0.00	300,620.01	<b>443,638.01</b>
Western Australian Police	1,528,023.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	675,178.46	<b>2,203,201.88</b>
Western Power	1,594,294.00	501,026.00	0.00	1,230,935.00	1,297,487.00	<b>4,623,742.00</b>
Wheatbelt Development Commission	0.00	4,923.00	0.00	0.00	14,661.00	<b>19,584.00</b>
WorkCover Western Australia	4,088.00	0.00	0.00	5,897.00	2,196.00	<b>12,181.00</b>
Zoological Parks Authority	52,715.00	47,630.00	0.00	45,003.00	277,048.00	<b>422,396.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,591,642.58</b>	<b>6,929,223.69</b>	<b>10,828.00</b>	<b>3,636,925.10</b>	<b>46,245,157.74</b>	<b>94,548,540.49<sup>c</sup></b>

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

<sup>a</sup> Report was for 1 January 2016 to 10 April 2016.

<sup>b</sup> Report was for the calendar year until 31 December 2016.

<sup>c</sup>The total overall amount disclosed does not match the total of the individual amounts.



## 2015–2016 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

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ISSN: 1441-1296



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