

Political Finance Annual Report

Report on the operation of
Part VI of the *Electoral Act 1907*
for the period ended 30 June 2017



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

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Introduction



2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

This report on the operation of Part VI of the Act during the 2016–2017 financial year has been prepared in accordance with section 175ZG of the *Electoral Act 1907* (the Act) for submission to the Minister, and subsequently each House of Parliament. There are no recommendations presented by this report.

The 2017 State General Election was held during the 2016–2017 financial year and, as expected, there was a significant increase in activity amongst political parties, candidates and other persons (third party organisations). The number of registered political parties increased from seven to sixteen, with applications being processed and completed within a six month period prior to the issue of the writ. There was also an increase of 36.4% in the number of candidates contesting the 2017 State General Election compared with the 2013 State General Election, impacting on the number of election returns required to be lodged and processed prior to the end of the 2016–2017 financial year. Election returns were published on 24 July 2017. Six more third party groups participated in the 2017 State General Election compared to the 2013 State General Election. Despite the significant increases in participation for the 2017 State General Election in comparison to previous elections, the resources allocated to administering and monitoring the operation of the Part VI of the Act remained the same. The increasing use of technology, social media, alternative sources of funding, such as crowd funding, as well as increasing participation from third party organisations were amongst some of the other challenges highlighted from the 2017 State General Election.

With regard to communication and liaison with political parties, the Commission met with all registered political parties prior to the 2017 State General Election. During the election period, the Commission trialled “election bulletins”, which were emailed to party contacts and independent candidates to communicate key information in a timely manner. A copy of the election bulletin was also posted on the Commission’s website. All political parties were invited to meet with the Commission post-election to provide feedback from their perspective. These post-election de-briefs with registered political parties commenced in May 2017 and were finalised by mid-June 2017.

Data provided in financial disclosure returns submitted for the 2016–2017 financial year, 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 2016–2017 financial year

2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

1. Financial disclosures

1.1 Annual returns by political parties and associated entities

- \$23,181,233.67 in gifts and other income was declared by 21 political parties.
- \$1,218,315.60 in gifts and other income was declared by five associated entities.
- Three political parties lodged late returns, however, the information was available publicly by the deadline required by the Act, four weeks after the return was required to be lodged.
- One political party submitted an amendment to their 2016–2017 disclosure in January 2018.

Table 1: Comparison of disclosure returns

Gifts & other income declared by:	Financial year		Difference
	2016–2017	2015–2016	
Political parties	\$23,181,233.67	\$16,216,039.63	30.05%
Associated entities	\$1,218,315.60	\$1,572,222.00	-29.05%

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. Four registered political parties met their disclosure requirements by submitting their Federal return for the 2016–2017 reporting period.

¹ The CEA disclosure threshold for individual donations for 2016–2017 was \$13,200, whereas the State threshold was \$2,300.

1.2 2017 State General Election disclosure returns

The disclosure period for political parties, candidates, Legislative Council groups and other persons ended 30 days after polling day on 10 April 2017. The 2017 State General Election returns were due by 26 June 2017, 15 weeks after polling day.

- \$6,628,713.62 in gifts was declared by candidates and other persons.
- \$19,220,744.34 in electoral expenditure was declared by political parties, candidates and other persons.

Table 2: Comparison of gifts declared in the 2017 and 2013 State General Elections

Type of disclosure	Gifts received State General Election		Difference
	2017	2013	
Candidates	\$420,054.76	\$456,780.70	-8.74%
Other persons	\$6,208,658.86	\$49,484.01	99.20%
Total	\$6,628,713.62	\$506,264.71	92.36%

continued ...

Summary of disclosures and public funding through 2016–2017 financial year



2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Table 3: Comparison of electoral expenditure declared in the 2017 and 2013 State General Elections

Type of disclosure	Electoral expenditure State General Election		Difference
	2017	2013	
Candidates	\$863,014.57	\$789,105.48	8.56%
Other persons	\$7,040,234.22	\$1,395,521.73	80.18%
Political Parties	\$11,317,495.55	\$8,822,834.68	22.04%
Total	\$19,220,744.34	\$11,007,461.89	42.73%

1.3 Part VI disclosures

- Nine political parties were registered during the 2016–2017 financial year.
- Five political parties updated details for their party agent.
- Four political parties changed their party secretary.
- 133 public agencies disclosed to Parliament expenditure of \$106,454,300.01 relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising agencies.

Table 4: Summary of certain expenditure by public agencies during the 2016–2017 financial year

Class of expenditure	Amount of expenditure declared
Advertising agencies	\$37,846,670.52
Market research organisations	\$6,986,327.88
Polling organisations	\$17,827.43
Direct mail organisations	\$3,577,823.07
Media advertising organisations	\$58,025,651.11
Total expenditure declared (133 agencies)	\$106,454,300.01

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

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Summary of disclosures and public funding through 2016–2017 financial year



Table 5: Summary of electoral funding reimbursement for 2016–2017 State General Election

2. Public funding

The State General Election was held on 11 March 2017, and eligible political parties, candidates and Legislative Council groups were entitled to submit claims for 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 (\$1.869934) 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 2017 State General Election. Six independent candidates and seven political parties qualified to submit claims for reimbursement of electoral expenditure by 31 July 2017. The last claim was finalised on 24 August 2017 and all claims were publicly available from 28 August 2017.

Candidate / Party name	District / Region	Number of primary votes as % of valid votes	Number of first preference votes	Amount paid
Australian Christians (WA)	Albany Armadale Darling Range Riverton Victoria Park	4.95% 6.40% 4.43% 4.75% 4.03%	5,762 (total of 5 districts)	\$10,774.54
Australian Labor Party (WA Branch)		41.30%	1,102,732	\$2,062,031.65
BIVOLTSIS, Jim (Independent)	Churchlands	4.52%	1,056	\$1,974.65
JOHNSON, Rob (Independent)	Hillarys	20.13%	4,745	\$8,872.82
National Party of Australia (WA) Inc		19.95%	131,089	\$245,127.25
Pauline Hanson's One Nation		8.29%	175,672	\$220,801.20
PORTELLI, Steve (Independent)	Cockburn	5.14%	1,194	\$2,232.70
SCHUMACHER, Dave (Independent)	Dawesville	10.07%	2,494	\$4,663.61
Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (WA)	Central Wheatbelt Darling Range Kalgoorlie Moore Murray-Wellington Pilbara Roe Warren-Blackwood West Swan Agricultural Mining and Pastoral South West	5.19% 4.23% 4.09% 5.84% 6.44% 9.56% 5.26% 5.70% 4.18% 5.65% 5.15% 4.12%	25,877 (total of 9 districts and 3 regions)	\$48,689.24
The Greens (WA) Inc		8.75%	233,764	\$437,122.32
The Liberal Party of Australia (WA Division) Inc		28.95%	772,945	\$1,445,353.04
WHITFIELD, Mat (Independent)	Baldivis	21.37%	5,346	\$9,943.56
			Total	\$4,497,586.58

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



2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Aboriginal Affairs, Department of	18,463.00	0.00	0.00	210.00	0.00	18,673.00
Agricultural Produce Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Agriculture and Food, Department of	83,295.00	0.00	0.00	19,558.00	67,075.00	169,928.00
Animal Resources Authority	4,031.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,048.00	36,079.00
Aqwest	0.00	10,741.00	0.00	0.00	3,941.00	14,682.00
Architects Board of Western Australia	906.16	0.00	272.73	0.00	0.00	1,178.89
Art Gallery of Western Australia	80,551.00	75,131.00	0.00	0.00	121,633.00	277,315.00
Attorney General, Department of the	261,840.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,668.00	294,508.00
Auditor General, Office of the	1,042.19	72,187.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	73,229.69
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	3,742.50	15,181.00	15,948.00	315.14	31,711.57	66,898.21
Building and Construction Industry Training Board	65,378.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	525,024.00	590,402.43
Burswood Park Board	2,678.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,268.00	17,946.00
Busselton Water Corporation	0.00	12,990.00	0.00	15,745.00	33,347.00	62,082.00
ChemCentre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Child and Adolescent Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	783.37	783.37
Child Protection and Family Support, Department for	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	109,500.00	109,500.00
Coastal Shipping Commission, Western Australian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Combat Sports Commission	1,784.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,784.66
Commerce, Department of	97,887.00	0.00	0.00	3,181.00	130,110.00	231,178.00
Commissioner for Children and Young People	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction Industry Long Service Leave Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corrective Services, Department of	100,557.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,557.00
Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia	448.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	448.00

continued ...

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

2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Country Health Service, Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	195,740.00	195,740.00
Country High School Hostels Authority	20,233.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,277.00	79,510.00
Culture and the Arts, Department of	0.00	10,878.00	0.00	0.00	18,459.00	29,337.00
Department of Planning and Development Assessment Panels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,162.95	9,162.95
Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disability Services Commission	79,991.00	95,022.00	0.00	5,455.00	115,449.00	295,917.00
East Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	367,573.09	0.00	0.00	12,462.96	380,036.05
Economic Regulation Authority	20,466.59	4,965.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,431.59
Education Services, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Education, Department of	456,104.00	56,500.00	0.00	0.00	313,697.00	826,301.00
Environment Regulation, Department of	0.00	226,651.00	0.00	0.00	21,826.00	248,477.00
Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	1,149.70	807.73	0.00	1,957.43
Finance, Department of	172,498.00	55,115.00	0.00	0.00	420,744.00	648,356.00
Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fire and Emergency Services, Department of	17,757.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,502.00	30,259.00
Fisheries, Department of	86,470.00	0.00	0.00	477,812.00	51,324.00	615,606.00
Forest Products Commission	0.00	24,600.00	0.00	0.00	18,034.57	42,634.57
Fremantle Ports	0.00	55,050.00	0.00	19,289.33	137,591.32	211,930.65
Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia	1,193.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,193.94
Gascoyne Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,542.00	8,542.00
Gold Corporation	1,335,624.00	0.00	0.00	229,525.00	171,169.00	1,736,318.00
Government Chief Information Officer, Office of the	93,594.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	243,235.00	336,829.00
Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB)	0.00	43,120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43,120.00

continued ...

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

2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Great Southern Development Commission	0.00	3,045.00	228.00	0.00	3,529.00	6,802.00
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office	6,129.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	6,179.00
Health Support Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Health, Department of	236,596.00	913,962.00	0.00	56,783.00	914,303.00	2,121,644.00
Healthway	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,313.00	10,313.00
Heritage Council of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,638.00	4,638.00
Horizon Power	238,299.90	70,440.00	0.00	0.00	226,385.68	535,125.58
Housing Authority	159,398.00	32,725.00	0.00	4,050.00	684,889.00	881,062.00
Independent Market Operator	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Information Commissioner of Western Australia, Office of the	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	25,436.00	23,750.00	0.00	0.00	919,038.00	968,224.00
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	92,371.00	92,371.00
Kimberley Development Commission	9,830.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,830.78
Kimberley Ports Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41,828.00	41,828.00
LandCorp	1,290,816.00	74,957.00	0.00	0.00	907,481.00	2,273,254.00
Lands, Department of	0.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00	55,000.00	62,000.00
Law Reform Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Aid Western Australia	1,659.85	23,085.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,744.85
Liquor Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Government and Communities, Department of	249,443.00	11,715.00	0.00	0.00	54,811.00	315,969.00
Lotterywest	3,740,613.00	48,078.00	0.00	0.00	16,638,112.00	20,426,803.00
Main Roads Western Australia	367,400.00	83,500.00	0.00	14,900.00	615,900.00	1,081,700.00
Mental Health Advocacy Service	867.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,450.00	8,317.00

continued ...

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

2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Mental Health Commission	33,070.71	358,094.32	0.00	0.00	2,934,196.57	3,325,361.60
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board	0.00	18,972.00	0.00	0.00	14,920.00	33,892.00
Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority	261,677.52	25,715.00	0.00	0.00	466,602.61	753,995.13
Mid West Development Commission	1,938.00	4,741.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,676.00
Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia	2,583.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,583.00
Mines and Petroleum, Department of	468,893.93	71,308.00	0.00	23,838.39	0.00	564,040.32
National Trust of Australia (WA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Metropolitan Health Service	59,876.00	1,740.00	0.00	0.00	189,059.00	250,675.00
Ombudsman Western Australia	0.00	11,239.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,239.00
Parks and Wildlife, Department of	48,809.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	155,545.00	204,354.00
Peel Development Commission	0.00	3,145.00	0.00	0.00	18,028.00	21,173.00
Perth Theatre Trust	19,383.92	0.00	0.00	11,821.32	115,408.20	146,613.44
Pilbara Development Commission	6,274.00	6,314.00	0.00	565.00	882.00	14,035.00
Pilbara Ports Authority	122,946.00	61,175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	184,121.00
Potato Marketing Corporation of Western Australia ^a	7,634.00	8,180.00	0.00	0.00	59,570.00	75,384.00
Premier and Cabinet, Department of the	237,919.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69,917.00	307,836.00
Professional Standards Councils	2,190.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	92.56	2,282.60
Public Advocate, Office of the	9,524.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,524.00
Public Sector Commission	157,412.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,044.00	160,456.00
Public Transport Authority	1,317,935.00	404,695.00	0.00	0.00	157,550.00	1,880,180.00
Public Trustee	2,464.00	30,250.00	0.00	0.00	19,288.00	52,002.00
Quadriplegic Centre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

continued ...

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

2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Racing and Wagering Western Australia	5,631,000.00	419,000.00	0.00	174,000.00	12,377,000.00	18,566,000.00
Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal of Western Australia						65.42
Racing, Gaming and Liquor, Department of	19,945.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	20,845.00
Road Safety Commission	5,805,307.25	254,430.00	0.00	0.00	986.20	6,060,723.45
Rottneest Island Authority	0.00	66,935.00	0.00	0.00	397,047.00	463,982.00
Rural Business Development Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School Curriculum and Standards Authority	7,451.00	4,200.00	0.00	3,276.00	0.00	14,927.00
Screenwest	0.00	4,141.50	0.00	0.00	2,850.07	6,991.57
Small Business Development Corporation	0.00	105,180.00	0.00	0.00	35,233.00	140,413.00
South Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	367,573.00	0.00	0.00	17,999.00	385,572.00
South West Development Commission	0.00	4,724.00	0.00	0.00	7,583.00	12,307.00
Southern Ports Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,200.00	30,349.00	34,549.00
Sport and Recreation, Department of	11,620.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,620.00
State Development, Department of	985,335.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	551,685.00	1,537,020.00
State Emergency Management Committee and Office of Emergency Management	2,308.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,308.49
State Heritage Office	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	359,129.00	359,129.00
State Library of Western Australia	1,890.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,307.00	20,197.00
State Training Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tourism Western Australia	4,381,000.00	1,261,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,541,000.00	16,183,000.00
Transport, Department of	3,273.33	45,450.00	0.00	0.00	20,378.38	69,101.71
Treasury Corporation, Western Australian	8,094.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,094.00
Treasury, Department of	10,717.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,717.00

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

2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
VenuesWest	0.00	61,490.00	0.00	0.00	606,639.06	668,129.06
Veterinary Surgeons Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Waste Authority	23,470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,470.00
Water Corporation	3,804,872.00	343,889.00	0.00	0.00	2,458,071.00	6,606,832.00
Water, Department of	10,974.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,823.71	33,797.91
Western Australian Electoral Commission	428,046.06	3,437.00	0.00	1,161,367.34	1,025,023.29	2,617,873.69
Western Australian Energy Disputes Arbitrator	0.00	452.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	452.00
Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48,300.00	48,300.00
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Department of the Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,889.00	11,889.00
Western Australian Land Information Authority [Landgate]	27,919.42	143,130.73	0.00	3,004.82	130,739.39	304,794.36
Western Australian Meat Industry Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Australian Museum	0.00	69,116.74	0.00	0.00	259,037.45	328,154.19
Western Australian Planning Commission	2,906.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	240,287.20	243,193.59
Western Australian Police	1,771,660.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,771,660.69
Western Power	2,799,584.00	356,729.00	229.00	1,292,192.00	302,110.00	4,750,844.00
Wheatbelt Development Commission	0.00	4,290.00	0.00	0.00	12,840.00	17,130.00
WorkCover Western Australia	1,875.00	0.00	0.00	5,145.00	5,415.00	12,435.00
Zoological Parks Authority	13,868.00	47,630.00	0.00	50,732.00	249,553.00	361,783.00
Total	37,846,670.52	6,986,327.88	17,827.43	3,577,823.07	58,025,651.11	106,419,361.86^b

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

^a Report was for six months to 31 December 2016.

^b The total overall amount disclosed does not match the total of the individual amounts.



2016–2017 Political Finance ANNUAL REPORT

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