

# Liberal Party of Australia Federal Fundraising Code

(August 2020)

for Federal Ministers<sup>1</sup>, Federal Members and Senators, and Federal Candidates

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Liberal Party of Australia requires significant resources to fund its operations and election campaigns.

In addition to public funding and membership fees, the Liberal Party relies upon donations from individuals and enterprises that support our principles.

The Liberal Party must avoid any risk to its reputation and ensure public confidence.

This requires all individuals and entities acting on behalf of the Party to:

- strictly comply with all relevant federal and state and territory legislation.
- maintain all proper records to ensure full compliance with disclosure legislation.
- behave at all times with the highest levels of integrity.
- avoid the possibility of any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

The Liberal Party does not accept funds that are donated subject to political conditions of any kind.

Under no circumstances should donations be accepted if they are intended to obtain the Liberal Party's support for specific actions or attitudes.

A donor has the right to put their views to the Liberal Party, but no more than that.

Fundraising efforts must be coordinated, to ensure the Federal Secretariat and State and Territory Divisions are all appropriately resourced.

By working together, we must achieve the best outcomes for the Liberal Party as a whole.

Liberal Ministers, elected representatives and candidates need to support fundraising efforts. These efforts must be coordinated through their Division and/or the Federal Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> The term Minister includes Shadow Ministers when the Party is in Opposition.

Subject to the requirements of any applicable legislation, all funds must be banked in Liberal Party accounts. No elected representative or Liberal candidate should be a signatory to these accounts.

Federal fundraising is governed by Part XX of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, including provisions relating to offences and civil penalties. State or Territory legislation may also have some application to federal fundraising, and of course applies to fundraising for state elections and local government elections. State or Territory legislation also includes provisions relating to offences, civil penalties and in some cases, criminal penalties.

All Divisions must comply with relevant legislation.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF MINISTERS**

As high profile representatives of the Liberal Party, Ministers are required to assist the Liberal Party's fundraising efforts.

Any entity established for this purpose (such as a "Supporters" club) must only be done with the approval of the relevant Division.

All funds are to be promptly deposited in bank accounts operated by the Liberal Party.

Maintenance of separate fundraising accounts by, or on behalf of a Minister, is not allowed.

Outside of funds raised for their own electorates, Ministers should support their Division, the Federal Secretariat and the Liberal Party more generally.

Where a federal Minister is invited to participate in a fundraising event for an interstate federal colleague, the State Director of that colleague's Division must be advised. This will support better coordination of fundraising activities.

Federal Ministers should not participate in fundraising for State/Territory members or State/Territory candidates without prior agreement from the State/Territory Division, via the State Director. (General attendance at Liberal Party events is okay, but further involvement requires agreement).

Any campaign expenditure incurred is treated as a contribution to the Party. Their Division or Electorate Committee needs to be advised, for the inclusion in disclosure returns. In these circumstances, the AEC requires the Minister to lodge a nil return.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

Liberal elected representatives are required to assist fundraising efforts for their own campaigns.

Any entity established for this purpose (such as a "Supporters" club) must only be done with the approval of the relevant Division

Where additional funds can be raised within an electorate, these should support their Division or the Federal Secretariat.

If funds are to be provided for other individual electorates or campaigns, this must be done with the written approval of the State Director of their Division.

All funds raised with the participation of elected representatives are to be deposited promptly in bank accounts operated by the Liberal Party.

Maintenance of separate fundraising accounts by, or on behalf of an elected representative, is not allowed.

Federal representatives should not participate in fundraising for State/Territory Members or State/Territory candidates without prior agreement from the State/Territory Director, via the State Director. (General attendance at Liberal events is okay, but further involvement requires agreement).

Where a federal representative is invited to participate in a fundraising event for an interstate federal colleague, the State Director of that colleague's Division must be advised.

Any campaign expenditure incurred is treated as a contribution the Party. Their Division or Electorate Committee needs to be advised, for the inclusion in disclosure returns. In these circumstances, elected representatives must lodge nil Candidate Returns in order to fully comply with AEC disclosure requirements.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF CANDIDATES**

Liberal candidates are required to assist fundraising efforts for their own campaigns.

Any entity established for this purpose (such as a "Supporters" club) must only be done with the approval of their Division.

All funds raised with the participation of candidates are to be deposited promptly in bank accounts operated by the Liberal Party.

If local campaign needs cannot be met with local fundraising, candidates must approach their Division for assistance.

Candidates must not seek funds from Ministers or other representatives without the knowledge and approval of the State Director of their Division.

Any campaign expenditure incurred is treated as a contribution the Party. Their Division or Electorate Committee needs to be advised, for the inclusion in disclosure returns.

In these circumstances, candidates must lodge nil Candidate Returns in order to fully comply with AEC disclosure requirements.

Any offer of in kind donations or support must be referred to an authorised Electorate Committee or their Division.