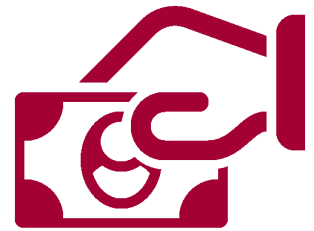


# Funding and Disclosure

## Information for donors



The *Electoral Act 2002* has been amended, introducing new political funding and disclosure laws for Victoria.

The laws apply to any person or entity that gives or receives political donations, including registered political parties, candidates, groups of candidates, elected members, associated entities, third party campaigners, nominated entities and donors.

A donor is anyone who makes a political donation to a person or entity participating in a Victorian State election.

### Political donations

A political donation is:

- any gift (be it money, services, a loan, a guarantee or giving of property) given to a registered political party, a candidate, a group of candidates, an elected member, or a nominated entity
- a gift to an associated entity or third party campaigner for the purpose of helping the associated entity or third party campaigner make a political donation, or incur political expenditure.

A gift does not include:

- gifts made in a private capacity for personal use
- annual subscription fees paid to political parties
- annual affiliation fees paid to political parties
- annual levies paid to political parties
- gifts made between a registered political party and its nominated entity
- gifts made for Commonwealth electoral purposes, provided the recipient does not pay it into their State campaign account
- volunteer labour
- labour shared between branches
- property used by a shared labour resource between branches (e.g. a telephone used by a worker).

### Disclosing donations

From 25 November 2018, both donors and recipients must disclose political donations worth \$1,000 or more via the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website within 21 days of giving or receiving that donation. Donors must also disclose multiple donations, which, when combined, add up to \$1,000 or more. Any subsequent donations above \$1,000 must also be disclosed.

Details to be included in these disclosures are:

- name and address of the donor (only the suburb and state of individual donors will be published)
- name of the recipient
- date the donation was given or received
- amount of the donation (which may require supporting evidence in the case of services or property).

Before disclosing donations, donors must be registered on the VEC website.

### Banned donations

From 1 August 2018, the following political donations are banned:

- donations from foreign donors (i.e. the donor is not an Australian citizen or resident, or a business with a relevant Australian business number)
- anonymous donations of \$1,000 or more (i.e. the donor must provide their name and address for any donation of or above \$1,000).

### Limits on donations

From 25 November 2018, there is a cap of \$4,000 from any one donor to any one recipient within an election period and donors cannot donate to more than six third party campaigners during the election period (the period between a general election and the next—this is usually a four-year period).

A registered political party, its endorsed candidates, groups and elected members, and its nominated entity, are all considered as one recipient for the purpose of the cap.

This means that a donor cannot donate, for example, \$4,000 to each candidate endorsed by a registered political party.

## Penalties

Significant penalties apply for failing to comply with the legislation, including fines and imprisonment.

*Please note, the information contained in this document is general in nature and does not take into account your individual circumstances; it is not legal advice. If in doubt you should seek professional advice.*

## More Information

More information on the obligations in relation to funding and disclosure can be found at [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au)

T: 131 832

E: [disclosures@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:disclosures@vec.vic.gov.au)

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