

NATIONAL INTEGRITY PRIORITIES: ELECTION 2019

The 46th Parliament must prioritise the following five reforms to restore public trust and build a more transparent and accountable system of government:

1. Establish a strong, properly resourced national integrity commission with:

- strong powers (including public hearings, when needed, across the entire Commonwealth public sector);
- wide jurisdiction (to investigate criminal, disciplinary and 'grey area' corruption, when needed; and comprehensive mandatory reporting);
- proper funding (\$100 million per annum).

2. Control political donations and finance through:

- low disclosure thresholds and real-time disclosure of political donations and campaign expenditure at federal and state levels;
- lowest workable donation and campaign expenditure caps, and public funding for election expenses with tighter accountability;
- nationally consistent rules and enforcement, in line with community standards, agreed through a high-level national process engaging experts and the public.

3. Strengthen rules on lobbying, 'revolving doors' and parliamentary conduct through:

- increased 'quarantine' or 'cooling off' periods for ex-ministers and senior staff;
- codes of conduct supported by independent advice and investigation regimes for all Members of the federal parliament;
- stronger sanctions and independent enforcement of lobbyist registration, disclosure and compliance.

4. Protect whistleblowers through:

- a properly resourced whistleblower protection authority for public and private sector workers, as recommended by the 2017 Parliamentary Joint Committee inquiry;
- a well-designed reward scheme, as also recommended by the Committee;
- upgraded legal protections for workers in all sectors, and unified, stand-alone legislation for the private sector (consistent with or beyond the 2019 Corporations Act reforms), as also recommended by the Committee.

5. Bolster international anti-corruption efforts by:

- expediting membership of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative;
- establishing a public register of beneficial ownership of companies, beginning with ASIC verification of all company ownership data;
- fully implementing the Financial Action Task Force Tranche 2 recommendations for anti-money laundering (to stop dirty money flowing into Australian real estate and luxury goods);
- reforming foreign bribery law, including adequate procedures defences and removing facilitation payments.