



DR RICHARD DI NATALE

Leader of the Australian Greens

Senator for Victoria

senator.dinatale@aph.gov.au
Level 14, 90 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
P. (03) 9654 0430

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
P. (02) 6277 3170 F. (02) 6277 3185

03/05/2019

Serena Lillywhite
CEO
Transparency International Australia

Dear Ms Lillywhite,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Transparency International Australia's questions relating to your reform priorities.

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).*

The Australian Greens have campaigned for a National Integrity Commission for over a decade, and have introduced five bills to enact this important reform. The National Integrity Commission bill which we introduced to the 45th parliament is based on years of consultation with the integrity sector, as well as growing community anger about maladministration. Unlike the Coalition's bill which has no teeth, and Labor's proposal which is spelt out only in media releases, our model has strong powers, including public hearings. It has jurisdiction to investigate criminal, disciplinary and 'grey area' corruption, as well as a framework for building institutions' resilience to corruption. It provides for a comprehensive scheme of mandatory reporting.

It's clear that an Integrity Commission must be scoped and resourced to do its job with the Attorney-General's Department proposing \$100-125 million over the forward estimates. Critically, the Greens have committed \$350 million for the Integrity Commission over the next 10 years, with \$150 million committed in the forward estimates. This is more than double what each of the other parties has committed, with the government funding \$15.4 million for the Commission in its first year, and Labor committing \$15 million. There will only be one chance to get this Commission right, and we need to resource it to do its job.



100% post-consumer recycled



DR RICHARD DI NATALE

Leader of the Australian Greens

Senator for Victoria

senator.dinatale@aph.gov.au

Level 14, 90 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

P. (03) 9654 0430

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

P. (02) 6277 3170 F. (02) 6277 3185

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.*

The Greens announced our plan to [restore integrity to politics](#) in February. We firmly support reform when it comes to donations and electoral funding. Our member-endorsed [policy](#) support caps on election spending for political parties and third parties, with public funding for election campaigns and the administration of political parties should be set at a level that ensures proper democratic participation by voters and reduces corporate influence on political donations. We want bans on political donations by corporations in specific industries, and caps on all other donations as well as caps on electoral expenditure including limits on third-party expenditure.

Given the undue influence on our democracy that they exercise every day, the Greens believe political donations from the mining, development, tobacco, alcohol, gambling, banking, defence, pharmaceutical and gun lobbies should be banned. For all other donors, whether corporates, unions or individuals, we would cap donations to no more than \$1000 per year.

Until such time as we can achieve these reforms, we will work to lower the threshold for disclosure of donations to individual candidates and parties from the current \$13,800 to \$1000, with information published in as close to possible as real time. Given the critical role of donations legislation in ensuring integrity in our political system, we believe all changes should be agreed by 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.*

The Greens seek stricter regulation on lobbying, through disclosure of fundraising activities and publicising meetings with ministers and ministerial staff. A new Diary Register should publish, monthly, all meetings with for-profit lobbyists, disclosing all meetings with members of parliament, as well as details of attendees and topics. We will close the revolving door between politics and big business, by enforcing and extending to five years the cooling-off period for post-politics, for-profit work which might raise a conflict of interest, and ensure it applies not just to Ministers and staff but to all MPs and their senior staff.



100% post-consumer recycled



DR RICHARD DI NATALE

Leader of the Australian Greens

Senator for Victoria

senator.dinatale@aph.gov.au
Level 14, 90 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
P. (03) 9654 0430

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
P. (02) 6277 3170 F. (02) 6277 3185

We will ensure that for-profit in-house lobbyists, and any for-profit lobbyist who hold an unrestricted Parliament House pass, is listed on the Australian Government's Lobbyists Register, and complies with the Code of Conduct. Both of these instruments should be enforced by an independent parliamentary commissioner.

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.*

The Greens acknowledged the need for such an authority in our [Additional Comments](#) to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee's inquiry into Treasury Laws Amendment (Enhancing Whistleblower Protections) Bill 2017, referencing the recommendations of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services' report on Whistleblower Protections.

The Greens support a well-designed reward scheme, as also recommended by the Committee. The Greens emphasised the benefit and need for a rewards scheme in our [Additional Comments](#) to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee's inquiry into Treasury Laws Amendment (Enhancing Whistleblower Protections) Bill 2017. We also moved an amendment ([Sheet 8421 revised](#)), that was unfortunately unsuccessful, that would have required the government to undertake a review of the legislation within 2 years with a specific focus on the merit and design of a rewards scheme.

The Greens support 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. The Greens acknowledged the need for this reform in our [Additional Comments](#) to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee's inquiry into Treasury Laws Amendment (Enhancing Whistleblower Protections) Bill 2017, referencing the recommendations of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services' report on Whistleblower Protections.

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.*



100% post-consumer recycled



DR RICHARD DI NATALE

Leader of the Australian Greens

Senator for Victoria

senator.dinatale@aph.gov.au

Level 14, 90 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

P. (03) 9654 0430

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

P. (02) 6277 3170 F. (02) 6277 3185

The Greens support expediting membership of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative as a means of bolstering international anti-corruption efforts, and also establishing a public register of beneficial ownership of companies, beginning with ASIC verification of all company ownership data. The Greens have consistently pursued this issue through Senate Estimates, including through questions on notice that revealed that the [government purports never to have committed to establishing such a register](#).

The Greens also support 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). The Greens moved a successful 2nd reading amendment to the [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Black Economy Taskforce Measures No. 1\) Bill 2018](#), calling on the Government to introduce legislation to regulate lawyers, conveyancers, accountants, high-value dealers, real estate agents and trust and company service providers under the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006. We also agree that reforming foreign bribery law, including adequate procedures defences and removing facilitation payments.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the Transparency International Australia's reform priorities.

Yours Sincerely,

Senator Richard Di Natale

Leader of the Australian Greens & Senator for Victoria



100% post-consumer recycled