



# ALP Code of Conduct for Fundraising

The following code of conduct was a decision of the 1994 ALP National Conference, and was updated at the 2004 National Conference.

## Preamble

Australia's political and economic stability is dependent on the strength of our democracy. The Labor Party believes that democracy in Australia will be strengthened by moderate and equal financial contributions from corporate Australia to both sides of politics.

- This code of conduct establishes the conditions that govern fundraising by the Labor Party at State, Territory and National levels. It is binding on all Labor Party branches, units and candidates for public office.
- Funds are raised by the Organisational wing of the Labor Party to assist candidates for public office to gain and/or maintain office.
- Funds are needed for policy development, Party administration and, most importantly, campaigning. All these political tasks must be carried out Federally and in each State and Territory.
- Each State, Territory and National Secretary of the Labor Party has a responsibility to raise funds.
- Campaign responsibilities can overshadow the need for adequate funds to support a strong and effective party organisation. Lack of funding for party maintenance and administration not only drains the Party's ability to develop policy and membership, but also undermines Labor's ability to campaign effectively and therefore undermines the stability of Australia's political system.

## Organisation of Fundraising

- The Party's National Director of Fundraising is the National Secretary. State and Territory Directors of Fundraising are the relevant State or Territory Secretary.
- Each State and Territory Branch and the National Secretariat raise funds cooperatively but separately.
- Each State and Territory Branch and the National Secretariat has a Finance Committee and a Fundraising Director. These individuals and their committees and/or donation collectors have sole responsibility for fund raising for their respective Branches. Each Branch organises its efforts independently and according to its own methods.
- State and Territory Finance Committees, all of whose members act in a voluntary capacity, collect funds from individual unions and corporations. Such funds supplement the Party's income from normal membership dues and affiliation fees.
- The National Secretariat collects funds for national campaigning, maintenance of the National Secretariat and the support of various State Branches. These funds support the National Secretariat's role of national policy development, assistance to the Federal Parliamentary Party and maintenance of the Party's professional and voluntary organisation throughout Australia.
- State, Territory and National offices shall operate systems of "centralised banking".
- All local campaign and other party accounts will be held under the relevant State or Territory central banking system with the relevant Tax File Number.

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### Conditions

- The Labor Party observes a fundraising code of conduct. This code is fundamental to the integrity of the Party and its organisational and Parliamentary members.
  - Parliamentarians can, and should, voice the Party's needs for funds or services and on occasions sign appeal letters.
  - on reasonable request, Parliamentarians can, and should, speak or appear at Labor Party fundraising events.
  - Members of the Parliament or candidates should not accept money or services on the Party's or their own behalf, above the amount of \$3000 from any one source. Donations that are accepted must be held in appropriate Labor Party central banking accounts styled in the form: Australian Labor Party Campaign Account.
  - Any funds held in accounts, or otherwise not under a State or Territory central banking system with the relevant Tax File Number, will be regarded by the Australian Labor Party and any other interested party as "personal accounts".
  - Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Labor Party named account, not individuals.
  - It is the legitimate responsibility of the relevant Fundraising Director, Finance Committee members and/or collectors to accept money on behalf of the Party.
  - On the written authority of the relevant State, Territory or National Secretary, Parliamentarians or Candidates may act as fundraising agents for the Labor Party.
  - Members of parliamentary executives may not be asked to act as fundraising agents or collectors.
- The detail of donations shall be publicly disclosed as per the requirements of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.
- The Labor Party does not accept funds that are subject to conditions of any kind.
- Under no circumstances will the Labor Party accept funds which, even if only by inference, are intended to obtain the Party's support for specific actions, attitudes or public statements.
- Donors have a right to put views to the Party—but a right to no more than that.
- The Labor Party never raises funds on behalf of any other Party or Organisation.
- Under no circumstances will the Labor Party or any of its endorsed candidates accept donations from the tobacco industry.
- Candidates for public office who act outside these guidelines will be liable to sanctions by the relevant Labor Party Caucus or State or Territory Administrative Committee or other interested parties.

