

Election Funding and Disclosure Report

Federal Election 2025

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Federal Election 2025

Report pursuant to subsection 17(2) of the
Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918

August 2026

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Our Ref: A7467069

Senator the Hon Don Farrell
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with section 17(2) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) we submit the Australian Electoral Commission's report of the operation of Part XX of the Electoral Act in relation to the general election and Senate election held on 3 May 2025.

In accordance with section 17(2C), particulars of the operation of section 314AN of the Electoral Act are included in the report.

In accordance with section 17(4), you must now cause a copy of the report to be laid before each House of Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House.

Yours sincerely

Signed

The Hon Justice Susan Kenny AM
Chairperson

Signed

Mr Jeff Pope APM
Electoral Commissioner

Signed

Dr David Gruen AO
Australian Statistician

Contents

Key terms	3
Background	5
General Reporting Obligations	5
The Report.....	6
Part XX.....	6
Election funding	7
Authority	7
Operation of the relevant provisions	7
Eligibility and entitlement	7
Election payment arrangements	7
Method of payment.....	9
Claims subject to review post payment	9
Publication of election funding determinations and refusal notices	9
Payments for the 2025 federal election	9
Payments made	9
Financial disclosure	13
Authority	13
Operation of the relevant provisions	13
Candidates and Senate groups	13
Donors to candidates or Senate groups	14
Disclosure returns for the 2025 federal election	17
Candidate and Senate group returns.....	17
Publication	19
Election donor returns.....	19
Reviews: Report under s 17(2C)	23
Compliance reviews pursuant to ss 316(2A) and 314AN	24
Election funding claims compliance reviews pursuant to ss 316(2A) and 314AN.....	29
Referendum compliance reviews completed under s 109N of the Referendum Act	31

Investigations	35
Investigation activities	35
Investigations outcomes	35
Anti-avoidance	37
Enforcement action	38
Appendix A – Key election dates	39

Key terms

AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
CPI	Consumer Price Index
Disclosure threshold	The disclosure threshold applied to the 2025 federal election is amounts of “more than \$16,900”
Endorsed candidate or Senate group	A candidate or Senate group that was endorsed by a registered political party
Independent candidate or Senate group	A candidate or Senate group that was not endorsed by a registered political party
Electoral Act	<i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>
Referendum Act	<i>Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984</i>

This report is published in full on the AEC website at www.aec.gov.au.

Data used to collate this report is current at 31 May 2026.

Background

General Reporting Obligations

Section 17 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) prescribes reports which are to be made by the Australian Electoral Commission. The section is as follows:

17 Reports by the Commission

- (1A) A report prepared by the Electoral Commissioner and given to the Minister under section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* for a period must include particulars for the period of:
 - (a) each person or organisation to whom the Commission has provided a copy of a Roll under subsection 90B(1); and
 - (b) each person or organisation to whom the Commission has given a copy of a Roll, or an extract of a Roll, under subsection 90B(4).
- (2) The Commission shall, as soon as practicable after the polling day in:
 - (a) a general election and any Senate election that had the same polling day as that general election; or
 - (b) a Senate election (other than a Senate election referred to in paragraph (a));prepare and furnish to the Minister a report on the operation of Part XX in relation to that election or those elections.
- (2A) A report under subsection (2) in relation to an election must include a list of the names of all persons who, in the opinion of the Commission, are or may be required to furnish a return under subsection 305A(1) or (1A) in relation to that election.
- (2B) The Commission may prepare and furnish to the Minister, otherwise than under subsection (2), such reports on the operation of Part XX as the Commission thinks appropriate.
- (2C) Subject to section 17A, the Commission must include in any report referred to in this section particulars of the operation of section 314AN¹ since the preparation of the last report referred to in this section that included particulars of the operation of that section.
- (3) Section 34C of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* does not apply in relation to a report under subsection (2).
- (4) The Minister shall cause a copy of a report furnished under subsection (2) or (2B) to be laid before each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after the day on which he or she receives the report.
- (5) A report referred to in this section need not include particulars of a matter if those particulars have been included in an earlier report referred to in this section.

¹ On 20 February 2025, the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Reform) Act 2025* received Royal Assent. The former s 316 of the Electoral Act was repealed, with the new provisions contained in s 314AN.

The Report

This report has been prepared and is furnished to the Minister pursuant to s 17(2) of the Electoral Act. It reports on the operation of Part XX of the Electoral Act in relation to the federal election held on 3 May 2025 (the 2025 federal election). Information required to be provided in accordance with ss 17(2A) and 17(2C) is also included in this report.

The 2025 federal election consisted of a general election for the House of Representatives and a half Senate election. The scope of the federal election and relevant key dates in relation to the operation of Part XX are provided at Appendix A.

Part XX

Part XX prescribes a legislative regime for the election funding and financial disclosure which applies to federal elections. Part XX is structured as follows:

- Division 1: Preliminary
- Division 1A: Registration of significant third parties and associated entities and the Transparency Register
- Division 2: Agents and financial controllers
- Division 3: Election funding
- Division 3A: Requirements relating to donations
- Division 4: Disclosure of donations
- Division 5: Disclosure of electoral expenditure
- Division 5A: Annual returns by registered political parties and other persons
- Division 5B: Electoral expenditure by foreigner campaigners
- Division 5C: Compliance and enforcement powers
- Division 6: Miscellaneous

The relevant provisions of Part XX for the purposes of this report are:

1. Division 3: subdivision B (Election funding)
2. Division 4: sections 304 (Disclosure of gifts) and 305A (Gifts to candidates etc)
3. Division 5: section 309 (Returns of electoral expenditure)
4. Division 5C: subdivision B (Investigations etc).

Election funding

Authority

Division 3 of Part XX of the Electoral Act provides for the payment of election funding to those who have contested as a candidate for the House of Representatives or as a candidate or group for the Senate in a federal election, and who reached the threshold of first preference votes that attracts election funding payments.

Operation of the relevant provisions

Eligibility and entitlement

Subdivision B (ss 293, 294 and 295) provides for the payment of election funding for each formal first preference vote given to a candidate for the House of Representatives or a candidate or group for the Senate in an election.

To be eligible to receive a payment of election funding a candidate for the House of Representatives or a candidate or group for the Senate must receive at least 4 per cent of the formal first preference votes cast in a federal election.

The election funding entitlement is calculated by multiplying the number of formal first preference votes received by relevant candidates or Senate groups by the funding rate applicable to the period in which the election is held.

Eligible political parties, candidates, and Senate groups receive an automatic payment of election funding as soon as practicable after 20 days after the polling day for an election. The amount is indexed every 6 months.

For entitlements greater than the automatic payment of \$12,379, the amount of election funding payable is the lesser of:

- the calculated election funding entitlement; or
- the amount of demonstrated electoral expenditure.

Indexation is calculated in accordance with the provisions contained in s 321 of the Electoral Act.

For the 2025 federal election the funding rate was \$3.386 per eligible vote.²

For the 2025 federal election the automatic payment amount was \$12,379.

Election payment arrangements

Under s 287A a campaign committee of an endorsed candidate or endorsed group is to be treated as a division of the relevant State branch of the political party that endorsed the candidate or members of an endorsed group. The effect of this provision is to allow campaign committees to incur and recover electoral expenditure.

Under s 296 the AEC must pay an automatic payment to the agent of each registered political party, candidate, or Senate group as soon as practicable after 20 days after the polling day for a federal election.

² This represents an increase of 16.2 per cent compared to the 2022 federal election rate of \$2.914 per eligible vote.

There are specific arrangements for federal parties. Under s 287 a federal party means a registered political party that has a federal branch and two or more State branches that are registered political parties.

The federal party agent will receive the automatic payment unless the agent advises the AEC of their agreement that the State branch should receive the amount. The agent of the federal party must advise the AEC in writing of any such agreement prior to the time of the automatic payment, otherwise it will be paid to the agent of the federal party.

For an independent candidate, where no candidate agent is appointed, under s 289(2) a candidate is taken to be their own agent.

For an independent Senate group, where no Senate group agent is appointed, under s 289(4)(b), the candidate listed first on the ballot papers is taken to be the agent for the group.

Under s 297, to receive election funding greater than the automatic payment a claim must be lodged with the AEC by the agent of the political party, candidate, or Senate group. The agent may make an interim claim, a final claim, or both an interim and final claim.

A claim must be lodged with the AEC between 20 days and 6 months after polling day. For the 2025 federal election, claims could be lodged between 23 May 2025 and 3 November 2025.

Section 298C(1) requires the AEC to decide whether to accept, in whole or in part, a claim for election funding within 20 days of receiving the claim. To the extent that the AEC accepts the claim, the AEC will pay the claim within this time period.

Section 298BA allows the agent of the candidate, Senate group, relevant registered party, or party branch (as the case requires) to amend a claim during the consideration period for the purpose of correcting an error or omission. However, the 20 day time limit for the Electoral Commission to determine the claim resets from the time the agent amends the claim.

Section 298F requires the AEC, if a final claim is refused, in whole or in part, to notify the agent in writing that the claim has been refused and provide reasons for the refusal and the opportunity for the agent to apply to the Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision.

Where a final claim has been refused in whole or in part, s 298G allows for the agent to apply to the Electoral Commission for reconsideration of the decision. The application must be in writing, set out the reasons for the application and be made within 28 days of the agent being notified of the Electoral Commission's refusal decision, unless a written extension has been granted by the AEC.

Under s 298H, if an application for reconsideration of a decision is received, the Electoral Commission must reconsider the delegate's decision that refused all or part of a final claim for election funding. The Electoral Commission has the power to affirm, vary, or set aside and replace that decision with another decision.

The Electoral Commission is required to give the agent written reasons for its decision on the application. If the Electoral Commission's decision results in any additional payment of election funding, that payment must be made within 20 days of its decision. Alternatively, if the Electoral Commission becomes satisfied that there was an overpayment of election funding, the excess funds may be recovered under s 299 as a debt due to the Commonwealth. An application can be made to the Administrative Review Tribunal to review the Electoral Commission's decision.

Method of payment

Section 299A allows for the payment of election funding to be made by direct credit or by cheque.

Claims subject to review post payment

Section 314AN³ provides for the AEC to conduct compliance reviews of claims for election funding.

If, during a review of an election funding claim, the AEC finds that there was an overpayment of election funding, the AEC may vary the claim decision in accordance with s 301(1) of the Electoral Act. If such a decision is made, the excess funds paid may be recovered as a debt to the Commonwealth under s 299 of the Electoral Act.

Section 298G provides for the agent of a registered political party, candidate, or group to apply, within 28 days of receiving a notice of refusal, to the Electoral Commission for reconsideration of the decision to vary an election funding claim.

Publication of election funding determinations and refusal notices

The AEC must publish claim determinations, refusals and reconsiderations on the [Transparency Register](#) as soon as reasonably practicable after making the determination. A person may not peruse or obtain a copy of a determination or notice before the determination or notice is published.

Payments for the 2025 federal election

For the 2025 federal election, the AEC made election funding payments to 26 registered political parties and 60 independent candidates. All political parties and candidates chose to receive election funding by direct credit and had nominated bank accounts that met the eligibility criteria under s 299A(2) of the Electoral Act.

Payments made

Total election funding paid for the 2025 federal election was \$93,850,428.95. This amount includes \$1,064,594.00 in automatic payments and \$92,785,834.95 in claims accepted.

The automatic payments of election funding were made on 5 June 2025, and payments based on claims accepted were made within 20 days of receipt of a claim.

Table 1 provides a list of the election funding payments distributed to registered parties and independent candidates. The totals include the automatic payments of \$12,379.

³ On 20 February 2025, the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Reform) Act 2025* received Royal Assent. The former s 316(2A) of the Electoral Act was repealed, with the new provisions being contained in s 314AN.

Table 1: Summary of payments – 2025 federal election

Political party	Total election funding paid
Australian Labor Party (Federal)	\$36,999,384.08
Liberal Party of Australia	\$28,235,699.46
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	\$6,078,750.36
The Greens NSW	\$3,670,962.37
The Australian Greens - Victoria	\$3,569,616.01
National Party of Australia - N.S.W.	\$2,429,326.33
Queensland Greens	\$2,397,487.77
Australian Greens (Federal)	\$1,668,519.22
National Party of Australia - Victoria	\$1,462,229.34
The Greens (WA) Inc	\$1,353,438.38
Legalise Cannabis Australia	\$486,221.96
Gerard Rennick People First	\$393,028.70
David Pocock	\$389,102.00
Trumpet of Patriots	\$262,865.34
Country Liberal Party (NT)	\$239,522.25
Family First Party Australia	\$203,684.83
Katter's Australian Party (KAP)	\$175,310.15
National Party of Australia (WA) Inc	\$155,965.93
Jacqui Lambie Network	\$91,608.23
Victorian Socialists	\$74,302.38
Centre Alliance	\$63,808.99
Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	\$34,648.94
Socialist Alliance	\$24,532.80
Australian Christians	\$15,677.18
Libertarian Party	\$12,379.00
Sustainable Australia Party - Universal Basic Income	\$12,379.00
Total	\$90,500,451.00

Table 1: *continued*

Independent candidate	Total election funding paid
Zali Steggall	\$154,367.74
Helen Haines	\$151,432.08
Sophie Scamps	\$143,844.05
Allegra Spender	\$136,401.62
Monique Ryan	\$131,901.63
Zoe Daniel	\$120,314.74
Alex Dyson	\$115,164.63
Kate Chaney	\$114,961.47
Andrew Wilkie	\$111,775.00
Caz Heise	\$107,051.77
Dai Le	\$105,331.69
Nicolette Boele	\$102,626.27
Jessie Price	\$91,828.32
Andrew Gee	\$85,232.39
Ben Smith	\$82,638.72
Kate Hulett	\$79,568.00
Michelle Milthorpe	\$69,639.86
Keryn Jones	\$65,336.26
Anita Kuss	\$63,470.57
Sue Chapman	\$61,645.52
Suzie Holt	\$59,911.88
Deb Leonard	\$59,353.19
Jeremy Miller	\$57,369.00
Kate Hook	\$56,735.82
Peter George	\$56,160.20
Ahmed Ouf	\$55,198.57
Erchana Murray-Bartlett	\$45,257.28
Tina Brown	\$44,475.11
Francine Wiig	\$44,305.81
Ellie Smith	\$43,591.36
Ziad Basyouny	\$41,339.67

Table 1: *continued*

Independent candidate	Total election funding paid
Claire Ferres Miles	\$39,243.74
Carly Moore	\$36,348.71
Ian Goodenough	\$35,969.48
Philip Penfold	\$35,773.09
Russell Broadbent	\$35,383.70
Claire Miles	\$34,493.18
Joseph Youhana	\$32,600.41
Matthew Camenzuli	\$32,549.62
Verity Cooper	\$28,486.00
Kate Dezarnaulds	\$28,344.21
Jess Ness	\$27,944.66
Nicole Arrowsmith	\$25,872.00
Phil Scott	\$25,398.39
Stella Yee	\$23,586.88
Jenny Rolfe	\$23,393.87
Nathan Barton	\$22,896.13
Kath Davies	\$22,635.41
Samim Moslih	\$20,840.83
Ben Britton	\$17,762.96
Chris Kearney	\$17,495.46
Casey Iddon	\$17,234.74
James Gooden	\$17,200.88
Kate Lockhart	\$15,457.09
Brendan Blomeley	\$12,941.29
George Razay	\$12,379.00
Peter McLean	\$12,379.00
Andy Yin	\$12,379.00
Adam Martin	\$12,379.00
James Pheils	\$12,379.00
Total	\$3,349,977.95

Financial disclosure

Authority

Divisions 4 and 5 of Part XX of the Electoral Act set out the requirements for financial disclosure. The relevant provisions which apply in respect to an election are ss 304, 305A, 307, 309 and 313 of the Electoral Act. Section 320 provides for the publication of information from disclosure returns.

Operation of the relevant provisions

Candidates and Senate groups

Section 304(2) provides that the agent of each person (including a member of a group) who was a candidate in an election or by-election shall, within 15 weeks after the polling day in the election, furnish to the Electoral Commission a return, in an approved form and in accordance with this section, setting out the total amount or value of all gifts, the number of persons who made gifts, and the relevant details of each gift above the disclosure threshold, received by the person while the person was a candidate in the election.

Section 321A provides for the indexation of the disclosure threshold referred to in ss 304 and 305A of the Electoral Act. For the 2025 federal election the disclosure threshold was \$16,900.

Section 304(3) provides that subject to s (3A), the agent of each group shall, within 15 weeks after the polling day in the election, in relation to the members of the group who had their names grouped in the ballot papers, furnish to the Electoral Commission a return in an approved form.

The return must set out the total amount or value of all gifts, the number of persons who made gifts, and the relevant details of each gift above the disclosure threshold received by the group in the election.

Section 304(4)(c) provides that the relevant details to be provided for a gift that exceeds the disclosure threshold are the name and address of the person who made the gift. However, ss 304(4)(a) and (b) require that in providing relevant details of various organisations which make gifts (such as an unincorporated association or a trust fund), names and addresses of members of the executive committee or names and addresses of the trustees of the trust must also be provided.

Section 304(3A)(a) provides that, where a group comprises members all endorsed by the same registered political party, a gift to the group is taken to have been received by the relevant State branch of the party (if the party has two or more State branches). Under s 304(3A)(b) it will be taken, in any other case, to have been received by the party.

Section 304(5)(b)(i) provides an exception to the general disclosure requirements of s 304, where the gift is made in a private capacity to a candidate for their personal use and the candidate has not and will not use the gift solely or substantially for a purpose related to an election.

Section 309(2) requires returns of electoral expenditure by agents of each candidate in an election (not being a member of a group) to be furnished within 15 weeks of polling day.

Section 309(3) requires returns of electoral expenditure by agents of each group in an election to be furnished within 15 weeks of polling day.

Section 309(1) provides that s 309 does not apply to electoral expenditure incurred by or with the authority of a registered political party or a State branch of a registered political party. Section 309(1A) provides that where electoral expenditure is incurred by a group, all the members of which are endorsed by the same party, s 309 applies as if the electoral expenditure was incurred by the relevant State branch of the party or the party.

Section 309(4) requires returns to include details of any discretionary benefits (however described) received by, or on behalf of, the person or any of the members of the group from the Commonwealth, or a state or territory, during the period of 12 months before polling day in the election.

Under ss 304 and 309, returns by candidates and Senate groups that are either jointly endorsed or are not endorsed by a party, are required in an approved form and in accordance with these sections. The AEC provides one form for both returns under ss 304 and 309 so that candidates and Senate groups can furnish both returns simultaneously.

Sections 307 and 313 provide that where no details are required to be included in a return by a candidate or Senate group under the applicable Division⁴ the candidate or Senate group shall, nevertheless, lodge a return and include a statement to the effect that no gifts or expenditure of a kind that is required to be disclosed were received or expended. These returns are termed 'nil' returns.

Historically, in the majority of cases, candidates endorsed by a registered political party have lodged a 'nil' return as their financial transactions are made by their party campaign committees. Section 287A(1) provides that campaign committees are to be treated as part of a State branch of a party under Divisions 4, 5 and 5A of the Electoral Act. This means that details concerning gifts received by candidates through a campaign committee (sometimes described as a party unit) are included in the annual return lodged by the party under s 314AB of the Electoral Act. Section 314AB requires disclosure of such information to the AEC within 16 weeks of the end of the financial year in which the gift is received.

Sections 304(3A) and 309(1) require financial transactions in respect of Senate groups endorsed by a single party (the majority of Senate groups) are incorporated into the annual return of the endorsing party lodged under s 314AB of the Electoral Act. These financial transactions are therefore not included in a return under ss 304 or 309.

Donors to candidates or Senate groups

Section 305A provides that a person or entity⁵ that makes a gift or gifts equal to or more than the disclosure threshold to candidates, including members of Senate groups, must provide a return before the end of 15 weeks after polling day in the election setting out the required details of the gifts. Under s 305A(2)(b), election donors are also required to disclose donations that they received above the disclosure threshold and used, in whole or in part, to make donations to candidates including to members of Senate groups.

Section 305A(4)(c) provides that the required details to be disclosed for gifts that are equal to or more than the disclosure threshold are the amount and value of the gift, the date on which the gift was made, and the name and address of the person or entity. However, ss 305A(4)(a) and (b) require that in providing relevant details of unincorporated associations or trust funds, names and addresses of members of the executive committee or names and addresses of the trustees of the trust must be provided.

⁴ These being Divisions 4 and 5, which respectively concern disclosure of donations and disclosure of electoral expenditure.

⁵ Under s 305A(1)(c), this excludes a political entity or an associated entity. A political entity is defined in s 4(1) as a registered political party or State branch of a party, a candidate, or a member of a group.

Table 2 summarises the information required, under Divisions 4 and 5 of Part XX, in candidate, Senate group and election donor returns for the 2025 federal election.

Table 2: Information disclosed in candidate, Senate group and election donor returns – 2025 federal election

Election returns	
Candidates	
s 304(2)	Total amount or value of all donations
s 304(2)	Number of persons who made donations
s 304(2)	Relevant details of donations over \$16,900
s 309(2)	Amount of electoral expenditure
s 309(4)	Details of discretionary benefits
Senate groups	
s 304(3)	Total amount or value of all donations
s 304(3)	Number of persons who made donations
s 304(3)	Relevant details of donations over \$16,900
s 309(3)	Amount of electoral expenditure
s 309(4)	Details of discretionary benefits
Note: For endorsed groups (other than jointly endorsed groups) transactions are included on the party's annual return.	
Donors	
s 305A(2) and (4)	Details of donations over \$16,900 made to candidates or groups
s 305A(2) and (4)	Details of donations received over \$16,900 used to make donations

Table 3 shows the dates by which information was required to be disclosed, and the date of publication of information from returns which applied to the 2025 federal election, as prescribed under the Electoral Act.

Table 3: Key dates for lodging and publishing disclosure returns for the 2025 federal election

Return	Disclosure date	Period covered	Public release
Candidates	18 August 2025 (within 15 weeks after polling day: s 304(2) and s 309(2))	Donations received from the earlier of the following: - the day that is 6 months before the day the person announced their candidacy; or - the day that is 6 months before the day the person nominated as a candidate - to 30 days after polling day Electoral expenditure from the earlier of the following: - the day that is 6 months before the day the person announced their candidacy; or - the day that is 6 months before the day the person nominated as a candidate, to 30 days after polling day Discretionary benefits received during the 12 months before polling day	20 October 2025 (first working day, 24 weeks after polling day)
Senate groups	18 August 2025 (within 15 weeks after polling day: s 304(3) and s 309(3))	Donations received from the day that is 6 months before the day of the request to the AEC to be grouped until 30 days after polling day Electoral expenditure from the day that is 6 months before the day of request to the AEC to be grouped until 30 days after polling day Discretionary benefits received during the 12 months before polling day	20 October 2025 (first working day, 24 weeks after polling day)
Donors	18 August 2025 (within 15 weeks after polling day: s 305A(3))	The disclosure period relating to the candidate or Senate group to whom the gift was made. For a candidate that is, from the earlier of the following: - the day that is 6 months before the day the person announced their candidacy; or - the day that is 6 months before the day the person nominated as a candidate to 30 days after polling day. For a Senate group that is, from the day that is 6 months before the day of the request to the AEC to be grouped until 30 days after polling day	20 October 2025 (first working day, 24 weeks after polling day)

Disclosure returns for the 2025 federal election

Candidate and Senate group returns

There were 1,456 candidates at the 2025 federal election, comprising 1,126 House of Representatives candidates and 330 Senate candidates. There were 118 Senate groups of which 10 were independent or jointly endorsed groups and therefore were required to furnish election disclosure returns.

Sections 304(2), 304(3), 309(2) and 309(3) of the Electoral Act require candidate and Senate group returns to be lodged within 15 weeks after polling day. For the 2025 federal election, this requirement resulted in a lodgement deadline of 18 August 2025.

As at 31 May 2026, for the 2025 federal election, of the 1,447 candidate returns lodged, 1,055 candidates (73 per cent) lodged a 'nil' return. The high percentage of 'nil' returns was due to the majority of gifts being made directly to political parties or their campaign committees and those political parties and campaign committees incurring expenditure on behalf of their endorsed candidates. Annual returns for the financial year during which the 2025 federal election occurred were due to be lodged by political parties, pursuant to s 314AB, by 20 October 2025.

Table 4 lists the number of candidate, Senate group and election donor returns lodged for the 2025 federal election. As of 31 May 2026, there are 6 outstanding candidate returns that are subject to potential enforcement action:

- David Bradbury* – Independent candidate
- Jake Davis – Independent candidate
- Angela Marie Harper – Jacqui Lambie Network
- Madison Maree King – Gerard Rennick People First
- Nikhita Yamini Sahay - Jacqui Lambie Network
- Tonya Lee Scott – Pauline Hanson's One Nation

*This candidate is not a previous MP of the same first and last name.

Table 4: Candidate, Senate group and election donor returns – 2025 federal election

Candidate returns	Number	% of total
Number of candidates	1,456	—
Number of returns received	1,450	>99%
Number of outstanding returns	6	<1%
Number of 'nil' returns	1,055	72%
Number of returns disclosing transactions	395	27%
Senate Group returns		
Number of groups	118	—
Number of groups required to lodge a return	10	—
Number of returns received	10	100%
Number of outstanding returns	—	—
Donor returns		
Number of donors required to lodge a return	82	—
Number of returns received	78	95%
Number of outstanding returns	4	5%
Total election returns received as at 31 May 2026	1,538	—

Table 5 provides a summary of data reported in candidate and Senate group returns for the 2025 federal election.

Table 5: Summary of donations – 2025 federal election

Candidate returns	
Total number of donors reported	23,141
Total amount of donations reported	\$30,616,861
Number of individually detailed donations	870
Percentage of number of donations individually detailed	4%
Total of individually detailed donations	\$18,666,281
Percentage of amount of donations individually detailed	61%
Total electoral expenditure reported	\$31,426,564
Total discretionary benefits reported	0
Senate group returns	
Total number of donors reported	4,000
Total amount of donations reported	\$493,829
Number of individually detailed donations	0
Percentage of number of donations individually detailed	0%
Total of individually detailed donations	0
Percentage of amount of donations individually detailed	0%
Total electoral expenditure reported	\$432,670
Total discretionary benefits reported	0

Publication

Section 320(1) requires the Electoral Commission to publish information from election returns on the Transparency Register before the end of 24 weeks after the polling day for the election. Information from returns relating to the 2025 federal election was published on the Transparency Register on 20 October 2025.

Election donor returns

Section 17(2A) provides that a report under s 17(2) must include a list of the names of all persons who, in the opinion of the Electoral Commission, are or may be required to furnish a return under ss 305A(1) or (1A)⁶ in relation to that election. There were 77 election donor returns furnished pursuant to s 305A(1) in relation to the 2025 federal election. As of 31 May 2026, 4 election donor returns are outstanding.

⁶ Section 305A(1A) relates to donations made to any person or organisation specified by legislative instrument by the Electoral Commissioner. Currently no person or organisation is so specified.

Table 6: Persons required to furnish returns under s 305A(1) for the 2025 federal election

Donor name	Return status
ACY Securities Pty Ltd	Received
Allira holdings	Received
Brian Snape	Received
Climate 200 Pty Limited	Received
DCM Bluelake Pty Ltd	Received
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Received
Dr Nicholas Catsaras	Received
Extend Your Edge Pty Ltd	Received
Fairfax Matters	Received
Franklin Briggs	Received
Future Blue Australia Ptd Ltd	Received
Green Energy Trading Pty Ltd	Received
Hargrave, Ruth Elizabeth	Received
Ian Melrose	Received
Jacqueline Moth	Received
Josseck Pty Ltd	Received
Keep Them Honest Pty Ltd	Received
Keldoulis Investments Pty Limited	Received
Keldoulis, Robert	Received
Mark Wootton and Eve Kantor	Received
Mr Adam Kierce	Received
Mr Alexander Turnbull	Received
Mr Andrew David Stewart	Received
Mr Frederick Woollard	Received
Mr Greg Spiller	Received
Mr Hilton Grugeon	Received
Mr Ian Darling	Received
Mr Ian Ward-Ambler	Received
Mr John Burdett	Received
Mr John Goodacre	Received
Mr John Hempton	Received
Mr Joseph Skrzynski	Received

Table 6 *continued*

Donor name	Return status
Mr Malcolm Edgar	Received
Mr Matthias Krups	Received
Mr Michael Chaney	Received
Mr Robert Purves	Received
Mr Roger Allen	Received
Mr Stephen Hill	Received
Mr Tony Leonard	Received
Mr William Manos	Received
Mr and Mrs Keith and Debby Badger	Received
Mrs Dora Burns	Received
Mrs Janet Holmes a Court	Received
Mrs Jennifer Leonard	Received
Mrs Katharine Saunders	Received
Mrs Katrina Burton	Received
Mrs Leonie Bell	Received
Mrs Melva Gee	Received
Mrs Sabrina Malone	Received
Mrs Sharon Britton	Received
Mrs Sharon Landy	Received
Ms Carolyn Loton and Stephen Moir	Received
Ms Hilary Tyler	Received
Ms Julie A Mills	Received
Ms Lois Harris	Received
Ms Margaret Douglas	Received
Ms Roslyn Horin	Received
Ms Therese Cochrane	Received
New Regime Pty Ltd	Received
Norman Pater	Received
Pater Investments Pty Ltd	Received
Playcorp Group of Companies Pty Ltd	Received
Polka Dot Ventures Pty Ltd	Received

Table 6 *continued*

Donor name	Return status
CG1 Family Trust	Received
Prof Rob MICHAEL	Received
Professor Kathryn Refshauge	Received
RACAT Group Pty Limited	Received
Regional Voices Fund Pty Ltd	Received
Ruth Ritchie	Received
Sir Andrew Simpson	Received
Stephen Charles	Received
The Good Party	Received
Timothy John Reed	Received
VIDA IMPACT FUND PTY LTD	Received
Voices of Bean Incorporated	Received
WALEED AHMED	Not received
Whittingham, Mathew	Received
William Taylor Nominees Pty Ltd	Received
Wycombe Services Pty Ltd	Received
Xiaoping YANG	Not received
Yangdai SUNHUA	Not received
Yong YIN	Not received

Section 305A(3) requires that returns provided under s 305A must be provided to the Electoral Commission in an approved form before the end of 15 weeks after the polling day for the election.

Table 7 provides a summary of donations to candidates as reported in returns lodged by election donors for the 2025 federal election in accordance with s 305A of the Electoral Act.

Table 7: Summary of donations to candidates for the 2025 federal election

Donation amount	Number and percentage of donations		Amount and percentage of donations	
	No.	%	\$	%
Less than \$16,900	502	61%	\$2,471,375	13%
\$16,900 or more	327	39%	\$16,211,826	87%
Total	829	100%	\$18,683,201	100%

Reviews: Report under s 17(2C)

Section 17(2C) of the Electoral Act requires the AEC to include particulars of the operation of s 314AN⁷ in this report since the last reporting on the section. Section 314AN provides as follows:

(2) The authorised officer may, by written notice given to the person, require the person:

- (a) to give to the authorised officer, within the period and in the manner and form specified in the notice, any such information; or
- (b) to produce to the authorised officer, within the period and in the manner and form specified in the notice, any such document or other thing; or
- (c) to answer questions asked by the authorised officer, at the date and time, and by the means, specified in the notice.

Note: This may include a requirement to produce information or documents relating to a federal account or federal administrative account kept for the purposes of this Part.

The purpose of reviewing documents and evidence produced in response to the notices issued under s 314AN is to determine whether the person lodging the disclosure return or election claim has complied with their obligations under Part XX of the Electoral Act.

A report prepared pursuant to s 17(2C) must comply with s 17A. This provision requires that the particulars of any information given or contained in documents or other things produced in compliance with a s 314AN notice, are not to be included in the report prepared, unless, in the opinion of the Electoral Commission, the information relates to a contravention, or possible contravention, of a civil penalty provision in the Electoral Act.

Notices under s 314AN issued in relation to the AEC's regular compliance program are issued to the person with the responsibility to lodge the disclosure return or claim.

⁷ On 20 February 2025, the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Reform) Act 2025* received Royal Assent. The former section 316 of the Electoral Act was repealed, with the new notice provision being contained in section 314AN. Reviews referred to in this section were issued under the former s 316(2A) from 1 April 2023 to 20 February 2025 and the current section 314AN from 21 February 2025 to 31 May 2026. Collectively, these clauses are referred to in this report as "relevant notice provisions".

Table 8: Summary of the person with the responsibility to lodge the disclosure return or elections claim.

Entity/Person	Disclosure returns	Election claims
Political parties	Agent	Agent
Candidates	Agent	Agent
Senate groups	Agent	Agent
Member of the House or Representative	Member of the House or Representative	N/A
Senator	Senator	N/A
Significant Third Parties	Financial controller	N/A
Associated entities	Financial controller	N/A
Third Parties	The person or entity that incurred electoral expenditure over the threshold must lodge the return. If the third party is an entity the return should be lodged by a person with the authority to do so	N/A
Donors (s 305B and s 306)	The person or entity that makes one or more donations to a political party, or significant third party, or to a member of the House of Representatives or Senator, totalling more than the disclosure threshold during a financial year must lodge the return. If the donor is an individual, he or she must lodge the return or if the donor is an entity, the return should be lodged by a person with the authority to do so	N/A
Donors (s 305A)	The person or entity that makes one or more donations to a candidate or Senate group in an election totalling more than the disclosure threshold must lodge the return. If the donor is an individual, he or she must lodge the return or if the donor is an entity, the return should be lodged by a person with the authority to do so	N/A

Compliance reviews pursuant to ss 316(2A) and 314AN

The last report under s 17(2C) which included particulars of the operation of the former s 316(2A) was the [“Election Funding and Disclosure Report, 2022 Federal Election”](#). That report contained particulars of notices issued under s 316(2A) between 7 November 2020 and 31 March 2023 and is available on the AEC website.

This report sets out particulars of the operations of ss 316(2A) and 314AN (the relevant notice provisions) between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026.

A notice issued under the relevant notice provisions in relation to the AEC's regular compliance program allows for any documents and evidence in the possession of the particular entity to be obtained to assess the completeness and accuracy of disclosures of:

- total receipts
- total payments
- total debts
- receipts above the disclosure threshold (detailed receipts)
- debts totalling above the threshold (detailed debts)
- electoral expenditure
- discretionary benefits
- gifts received and used to incur electoral expenditure
- gifts made to political parties or significant third parties or members of the House of Representatives or Senators or candidates or Senate groups
- gifts received and used wholly or partly to make donations to a political party or significant third party or members of the House of Representatives or Senators or candidates or Senate groups.

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026, the AEC:

- issued 25 notices in respect of registered political parties, State branches of registered political parties, significant third parties (formally political campaigners), associated entities and third parties
- completed 47 compliance reviews consisting of 14 in the 2022–23 financial year, 14 in the 2023–24 financial year, 15 in 2024–25 financial year, and 4 in the 2025–26 financial year. A further 5 compliance reviews remain active.

Table 9 lists the compliance reviews completed. It also indicates the areas where errors were identified in disclosure returns from an analysis of documents produced under notices issued under the relevant notice provisions.

Table 9: Compliance reviews completed under relevant notice provisions between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026 (where amendments were required, elements are marked with a check mark. The annual return that was reviewed is indicated after the entity name).

Political parties	Year of return	Total receipts	Total payments	Total debts	Detailed receipts	Detailed debts	Discretionary benefits
Animal Justice Party	2020–21			✓	✓	✓	✓
Australian Greens (South Australia)	2020–21			✓	✓	✓	
Australian Labor Party (Northern Territory) Branch	2020–21						
Australian Labor Party (South Australian Branch)	2020–21						
Australian Labor Party (Tasmanian Branch)	2020–21			✓	✓		
Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch)	2020–21			✓		✓	
Australian Labor Party (Western Australian Branch)	2020–21			✓	✓	✓	
Country Liberal Party NT	2020–21			✓	✓		
Liberal Party of Australia – ACT Division	2020–21	✓	✓		✓		
Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)	2020–21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
National Party of Australia – N.S.W.	2020–21						
National Party of Australia (WA) Inc	2020–21				✓		
The Australian Greens – Victoria	2020–21			✓		✓	
Australian Labor Party (State of Queensland)	2021–22						
National Party of Australia	2021–22						
Queensland Greens	2021–22	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Liberal Party of Australia	2021–22	✓	✓	✓		✓	

Table 9 continued

Political parties	Year of return	Total receipts	Total payments	Total debts	Detailed receipts	Detailed debts	Discretionary benefits
Centre Alliance	2021-22						
Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch)	2022-23	✓	✓				
Jacqui Lambie Network	2021-22						
Liberal Party (W.A. Division) Inc	2022-23						
Total		5	4	10	9	8	1

Associated entities	Year of return	Total receipts	Total payments	Total debts	Detailed receipts	Detailed debts	Discretionary benefits
CEPU – Electrical Division QLD & NT	2020-21			✓	✓	✓	
Kooyong 200 Club	2021-22						
Finance Sector Union of Australia – VIC/TAS Branch	2021-22	✓	✓				
The Lady Wilson Foundation	2022-23	✓					
Total		2	1	1	1	1	0

Significant third parties	Year of return	Total receipts	Total payments	Total debts	Detailed receipts	Detailed debts	Electoral expenditure	Discretionary benefits
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	2018-19	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Australian Municipal Administrative Clerical and Services Union	2018-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation	2018-19			✓	✓	✓		

Table 9 continued

Significant third parties	Year of return	Total receipts	Total payments	Total debts	Detailed receipts	Detailed debts	Electoral expenditure	Discretionary benefits
Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union	2018-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association	2018-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Allegra for Wentworth Pty Ltd	2020-21	✓		✓				
Hughes Independent Politics Pty Ltd	2020-21							
Vote Angus Out Pty Ltd	2020-21		✓	✓			✓	
GetUp Limited	2021-22							
Curtin Independent Pty Ltd	2021-22							
Advance Australia	2021-22	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Australian Council of Trade Unions	2021-22	✓	✓	✓	✓			
National Disability Services Limited	2021-22	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Climate 200 Pty Limited	2021-22	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
It's Not a Race Ltd	2022-23	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Australian Automobile Association	2022-23							
Kooyong Independent	2022-23							
Australian Christian Lobby	2022-23							
Total		10	9	11	9	5	6	1
Third parties	Year of return	Electoral Expenditure		Gifts received and used to incur electoral expenditure				
Unions NSW	2021-22							
ABC Friends NSW & ACT	2021-22							
Smart Energy Council	2022-23							
Electrical Trades Union of Australia NSW Branch	2022-23							
Total		0		0				

Table 10 provides a summary of data in relation to amendments made to completed compliance reviews. Compliance reviews were completed on 47 annual disclosure returns, of which 28 (60%) required amendments.

Table 10: Summary of compliance data

Disclosure information	No. of entities required to disclose	No. of returns requiring amendments	% of no. of returns requiring amendments
Total receipts	43	17	40%
Total payments	43	14	33%
Total debts	43	22	51%
Detailed receipts	43	19	44%
Detailed debts	43	14	33%
Detailed discretionary benefits	43	2	5%
Electoral expenditure	22	6	27%
Gifts received and used to incur electoral expenditure	4	0	0%

Political parties, associated entities and significant third parties are required to disclose total receipts, total payments, total debts, detailed receipts, detailed debts and discretionary benefits. Additionally, significant third parties are also required to disclose electoral expenditure.

Third parties are required to disclose electoral expenditure and gifts used, either wholly or partly, to incur electoral expenditure.

The AEC's policy is to support those who are required to comply so that they can meet their compliance obligations to disclose fully and accurately as required under Part XX. Therefore, where the AEC forms a view, based on its analysis of documents provided under the relevant notice provisions that there are errors contained in the financial returns, the AEC writes to the relevant party agent, financial controller or person with the authority to lodge the return, highlighting the errors and suggesting that they should consider lodging a request under s 319A(2) to amend the disclosure return in order to correct the identified errors and/or omissions.

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026, the AEC wrote to 13 party agents and 15 financial controllers, highlighting errors in financial returns lodged by them and suggesting that they consider lodging an amendment of the return pursuant to s 319A(2). As a result of the AEC's recommendations all lodged an amended return under s 319A(2) which resulted in the Electoral Commission permitting each of the amended returns to be made in accordance with s 319A(4) of the Electoral Act.

Election funding claims compliance reviews pursuant to ss 316(2A) and 314AN

The last report under s 17(2C) which included particulars of the operation of the former s 316(2A) was the [“Election Funding and Disclosure Report, 2022 Federal Election”](#). For the 2022 federal election, 20 claims for election funding were reviewed.

This report sets out particulars of the operations of ss 316(2A) and 314AN⁸ between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026.

⁸ As in the section above, notices were issued under s 316(2A) from 1 April 2023 to 20 February 2025 and section 314(AN) from 21 February 2025 to 31 May 2026. Collectively, these clauses are referred to in this report as “relevant notice provisions”.

A s 314AN notice allows the AEC, through the examination of source documentation, to determine whether expenditure items listed in a final claim met the criteria for acceptance and payment of election funding in s 298C(2), namely:

- (a) whether expenditure claimed is electoral expenditure; and
- (b) if expenditure claimed is electoral expenditure – both:
 - (i) whether the electoral expenditure was incurred; and
 - (ii) whether the electoral expenditure has been specified in a claim made by another agent.

For the 2025 federal election, 23 registered political parties and 56 independent candidates lodged claims for election funding for more than the automatic payment amount. Compliance reviews of election funding claims for the 2025 federal election are underway at the date of this report, with 16 notices issued in respect of 19 reviews to be completed. Any variations to claim determinations as a result of these reviews will be published on the Transparency Register.

For the 2022 federal election the AEC issued 20 notices (these notices were issued under the former s 316(2A) provision of the Electoral Act) in respect of registered political parties and candidates that lodged a claim. This equates to review of 89.97% of election funding payments made for that election.

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026, the AEC completed 20 election funding reviews, with one claim requiring a variation to its initial election funding claim determination. The variation was to the claim made by Pauline Hanson’s One Nation.

Table 11: Election funding claim reviews completed under relevant notice provisions between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026

Election Funding Claim – Political Party	Variation of the initial election funding claim
Australian Greens	
Australian Labor Party	
Country Liberal Party NT	
Katter’s Australian Party (KAP)	
Liberal Party of Australia	
National Party of Australia - Victoria	
Pauline Hanson’s One Nation*	✓
Queensland Greens	
The Australian Greens- Victoria	
The Greens NSW	

Table 11 *continued*

Election Funding Claim – Candidate	Variation of the initial election funding claim
Claire Ferres Miles	
Dai Lee	
David Pocock	
Despina O'Connor	
Hanabeth Luke	
Kathleen Louise Hook	
Monique Ryan	
Nicolette Boele	
Sophie Kate Baldwin	
Suzie Holt	

*The revised Determination for Pauline Hanson's One Nation is located on the AEC's website.

Referendum compliance reviews completed under s 109N of the Referendum Act

Section 109Y of the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* (Referendum Act) mirrors the requirements of s 17(2) of the Electoral Act by requiring the preparation of a disclosure report for referendum events. The last report produced under s 109Y was the "[Referendum Disclosure Report, 2023 Referendum](#)", however, at the time of the report's preparation, the AEC's referendum compliance review program was in progress.

Since that time, a number of referendum compliance reviews have been finalised. Section 109Y of the Referendum Act does not require the preparation of the next referendum disclosure report until after the next referendum event, however, given the uncertain timing of such a future event, and in the interest of providing an entire picture of AEC compliance activities, information on these has been included in this report.

Under s 109N of the Referendum Act, if the Electoral Commissioner has reason to believe that a person has information or a document that is relevant to assessing compliance with Part VIIIA⁹ of the Referendum Act, the Electoral Commissioner may, by written notice given to the person, require the person:

- to give to the Commissioner any such information; or
- to produce to the Commissioner any such documents.

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026, the AEC:

- issued 50 s 109N notices under provisions of the Referendum Act in respect of referendum entities, organisation donors and individual donors
- completed 45 referendum compliance reviews, with 5 referendum compliance reviews remaining active.

9 Part VIIIA of the Referendum Act establishes the disclosure scheme for federal referendums.

Table 12: Reviews of referendum entities completed under s 109N of the Referendum Act between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026 (where amendments were required, elements are marked with a check mark)

Referendum entities	Year of return	Referendum expenditure	Total donations/ gifts in kind (GIK) received	Total No of donors	Details of Donation/ GIK received
Qantas Airways Limited	2023	✓			
Stand Up: Jewish Commitment to a Better World Ltd	2023	✓			
The Council of the City of Sydney	2023				
Dungala Kaiela Foundation	2023				
Public Interest Advocacy Centre	2023				
Central Land Council	2023	✓	✓		✓
GetUp Limited	2023	✓	✓	✓	✓
Australian Labor Party (ALP)	2023			✓	
United Workers Union	2023	✓			
It's Not a Race Ltd	2023	✓			
Christians for Justice Ltd	2023	✓	✓		
Youth Off the Streets Limited	2023				
The Voice No Case Committee	2023				
Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch)	2023				
Northern Land Council	2023	✓			
Liberal Party of Australia (WA Division) Inc	2023				

Table 12 *continued*

Referendum entities	Year of return	Referendum expenditure	Total donations/ gifts in kind (GIK) received	Total No of donors	Details of Donation/ GIK received
Liberal National Party of Queensland	2023	✓			
Australian Council of Trade Union	2023	✓			
Australian Education Union – Federal	2023				
University of New South Wales	2023				
National Party of Australia	2023				
Reconciliation Australia Ltd	2023	✓	✓		
NSW Reconciliation Council Incorporated, trading as Reconciliation NSW	2023	✓	✓	✓	
The Trustee for The Dugdale Trust for Women and Girls	2023	✓			✓
Constitutional Equality	2023	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advance Aus Ltd	2023	✓	✓	✓	
Total		15	7	5	4

Table 13: Reviews of referendum individual donors completed under s 109N of the Referendum Act between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026 (where amendments were required, elements are marked with a check mark)

Referendum Individual Donor	Year of return	Details of donation made to referendum entity
Roger Allen	2023	
Robert James Keldoulis	2023	
Ian Darling AO	2023	
Simon Fenwick	2023	
Jeffrey McCloy	2023	
Roderick Campbell	2023	✓
Julie Kantor AO	2023	✓
Charlotte Siddle	2023	✓
Michael Wheeler	2023	
Total		3

Table 14: Reviews of referendum organisation donors completed under s 109N of the Referendum Act between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026 (where amendments were required, elements are marked with a check mark)

Referendum Organisation Donor	Year of return	Details of donation made to referendum entity
Wesfarmers	2023	
Givia Pty Ltd	2023	
Climate 200 Pty Limited	2023	
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	2023	✓
Australian Communities Foundation Limited	2023	✓
Tripple Ventures Pty Ltd	2023	
The B Macfie Family Pty Ltd	2023	✓
Woodside Energy	2023	
Gilbert + Tobin	2023	✓
Sirius Nominees Pty Ltd	2023	✓
Total		5

Investigations

The AEC has authority to undertake investigations relating to the disclosure scheme under Part XX of the Electoral Act. The AEC assesses the information, facts and circumstances of a matter to determine whether to commence an investigation.

Under s 314AN of the Electoral Act, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person is capable of giving information, or producing a document or other thing, that is relevant for the purposes of ensuring compliance with Part XX of the Electoral Act, the AEC may, by written notice, require the person to give any such information, or produce any such document to the AEC.

Investigation activities

The table below summarises compliance investigation activities undertaken between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026.

Table 15: Investigation activities

Activity	Number
Investigations commenced	10
Investigations finalised	7
Contraventions identified	2

Investigations outcomes

The table below details the compliance investigations that were finalised between 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026.

Table 16: Investigations outcomes

Entity	Outcome
Australians for Prosperity Ltd	The entity lodged an application to register as a significant third party after being issued with a notice under s 314AN of the Electoral Act.
Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd, Sydney Mining Club and the Liberal Party of Australia	The disclosures examined as part of the investigation were found to be accurate. ¹⁰
Leading Global Pty Ltd	Entity was found to have contravened the requirements of s 314AEB of the Electoral Act by failing to lodge a third party disclosure return for the 2021–22 financial year on or before 17 November 2022. ¹¹ A disclosure return was subsequently lodged.

10 [Investigation-Report-2024-Hancock-Prospecting-Sydney-Mining-Club-and-the-Liberal-Party-of-Australia.pdf](#)
11 https://www.aec.gov.au/Parties_and_Representatives/compliance/files/2025/27%20October%202025%20%E2%80%9320Leading%20Global%20Pty%20Ltd.pdf

Table 16 *continued*

Entity	Outcome
Rugby Australia Limited ¹²	Entity was found to have contravened the requirements of s 109E of the Referendum Act by failing to lodge a referendum entity return on or before 29 January 2024. ¹³ A disclosure return was subsequently lodged.
The Community Independents Project Limited	Entity was found not to have a registration obligation as either a significant third party or an associated entity.
The Muslim Vote Pty Ltd	Entity was found not to have a registration obligation as either a significant third party or an associated entity.
Voices of Berowra	The entity lodged an application to register as an associated entity after being issued with a notice under s 314AN of the Electoral Act.

¹² The investigation of Rugby Australia Limited was conducted under the provisions of section 109N of the Referendum Act. It has been included here for completeness.

¹³ https://www.aec.gov.au/Parties_and_Representatives/compliance/files/2025/Rugby-Australia-Ltd.pdf

Anti-avoidance

The Electoral Act provides the AEC with powers to stop schemes which, as a result of their being carried out, result in the avoidance of:

- significant third party or associated entity registration obligations
- prohibitions relating to foreign donations; and
- prohibitions relating to foreign campaigners.

Where the AEC has reasonable grounds to conclude that a scheme was entered into, carried out, or begun for the sole or dominant purpose of avoidance, a notice may be issued requiring involved entities to cease such conduct.

Penalties may apply for persons who contravene an anti-avoidance notice.

The AEC did not issue any anti-avoidance notices under ss 287S, 302H or 314AK or finalise any anti-avoidance matters in the period 1 April 2023 and 31 May 2026.

Enforcement action

The Electoral Act provides the AEC with powers to investigate non-compliance and, where necessary, take appropriate enforcement action. Types of non-compliance with Part XX include failing to submit election disclosure returns, making claims for public funding that a candidate or party is not entitled to, and failure to keep records.

The AEC may take action it considers necessary and appropriate to deal with noncompliance. The AEC will select the most appropriate enforcement action based on a number of considerations including the nature and seriousness of the breach, frequency, and mitigating factors.

Where there is scope for an individual or entity to rectify and address the noncompliance, the AEC will provide the individual or entity a reasonable opportunity to do this. However, for more serious breaches, such as intentional or repeated noncompliance, the AEC may consider other enforcement mechanisms in the Electoral Act including obtaining an enforceable undertaking, seeking to impose a civil penalty, or initiating criminal proceedings.

Enforceable undertakings are published on the Transparency Register.

Enforcement action related to the 2025 federal election is ongoing.

For the 2022 federal election, the AEC engaged a law firm to undertake enforcement actions in relation to outstanding candidate returns.

- One outstanding candidate return proceeded to court action. This court action was discontinued based on legal advice received:
 - Dean Patrick Fisher
- Two enforceable undertakings were issued in relation to non-lodgement and published on the Transparency Register. Disclosure returns were subsequently lodged:
 - [Marijanna Smith](#)
 - [Bettina MacFarlane](#)
- Three candidates lodged disclosure returns late but did not sign an enforceable undertaking:
 - Brent Thomas Fowler
 - Damien Richardson
 - Andrew Evan Thaler.

Letters of demand were issued to six donors with outstanding obligations for the 2023–24 annual disclosure returns. The AEC has since received disclosure returns from five of these donors, with one return remaining outstanding. Enforcement action is currently underway in relation to the outstanding donor.

For the 2024–25 annual disclosure return period, 71 donor returns and one associated entity return remain outstanding. Enforcement activity is currently in progress to issue letters of demand in relation to these matters.

Following the completion of a compliance review of Pauline Hanson's One Nation 2022 election funding claim, the AEC undertook enforcement action requiring the party to refund \$81,880.61 in election funding payments.

Appendix A – Key election dates

The electoral event held on 3 May 2025 was a combined general election for the House of Representatives and a half Senate election. Key dates for this election are detailed below.

Monday 31 March 2025	Issue of the Writs
Thursday 10 April 2025	Close of nominations
Saturday 3 May 2025	Polling Day
Friday 23 May 2025	Calculation of automatic election funding entitlement First day a claim can be lodged for election funding of more than the automatic payment (20 days after polling day)
Monday 2 June 2025	Conclusion of donations disclosure period (30 days after polling day)
Thursday 12 June 2025	Writs returned
Monday 18 August 2025	Candidate, Senate group & donor returns due (15 weeks after polling day)
Monday 20 October 2025	Public Inspection of disclosure returns (24 weeks after polling day)
Monday 3 November 2025	Last day for lodging of claims for election funding of more than the automatic payment (6 months after polling day)

