

Privacy Notice – Financial disclosure returns

This collection notice applies to anyone who is using the AEC's eReturns system and/or completing and lodging a financial disclosure return with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), and anyone whose personal information may be included in a financial disclosure return.

This privacy notice explains:

- what information the AEC will collect from the financial disclosure return;
- how the AEC will use, disclose, store and secure this information; and
- how you can access and amend this information where the AEC continues to hold it.

This collection notice should be read in conjunction with the relevant [financial disclosure](#) or [referendum disclosure](#) guide and the [AEC Privacy Policy](#).

Collection

The personal information required for lodging financial disclosure return forms is collected under Divisions 4 or 5 and 5A of Part XX of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth) (Electoral Act) and Division 2 of Part VIIA of the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* (Referendum Act). Financial disclosure returns are lodged directly with the AEC through the eReturns system, or via a print version of the form.

The type of personal information that will be collected from the AECs eReturns system and from lodged financial disclosure returns will include:

- full name; and
- contact details, including email addresses

The AEC is required to handle your personal information in accordance with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) (Cth) (Privacy Act) and it is recognised that some of the information being collected may include sensitive information for the purposes of the Privacy Act.

Silent elector personal information

Some individuals included in financial disclosure returns may be registered as silent electors with the AEC. An individual can become a silent elector if they believe that having their address included on the publicly available electoral roll could put their or their family's safety at risk.

The AEC does not disclose financial return forms, or the addresses of donors on the AECs Transparency Register. The AECs Transparency Register is explained in the next section of this notice.

Use and disclosure

The publication of financial disclosure returns information on the AEC Transparency Register is part of the AEC delivering fair and transparent elections, and is required by Division 6 of Part XX of the Electoral Act.

Financial disclosure returns information that is published on the Transparency Register is limited to the names of donors, who the donation was made to, and the amounts of donations. The Transparency Register is available on the AEC website.

The personal information collected in financial disclosure returns and the eReturns system may also be used by the AEC to:

- verify any obligations to you under the Electoral Act
- contact you if required as part of its functions, including seeking feedback on AEC services and functions related to financial disclosure
- maintain the AEC's Transparency Register

Aside from the above uses, the AEC will only use, or disclose, your personal information in very limited circumstances where:

- the use or disclosure is required or authorised by law; or
- if a permitted general situation under section 16A of the Privacy Act applies.

For example, we may disclose your personal information to third parties in the event of an emergency.

We will obtain your consent for any specific use or disclosure of your personal information not covered by this collection notice or the AEC Privacy Policy.

Storage

The AEC will store your personal information to allow the AEC to be able to carry out the functions and purposes outlined above. All information will be securely stored in accordance with the AEC's security policies and the Australian Government's Protective Security Policy Framework.

Access to and amending information

Under the Privacy Act you have the right to ask for access to personal information that the AEC holds about you, and ask that personal information be corrected. You can ask for access or correction by contacting the Privacy Officer using the details below. If you ask, the AEC must give you access to your personal information, and take reasonable steps to correct it if the AEC considers it is incorrect.

For amendments to the information held on financial disclosure return forms, an individual or entity who has provided a return to the AEC may request an amendment to the return for the purposes of correcting an error or omission. Amendments are made under s 319A of the Electoral Act.

For further information about amendments to published financial disclosure returns, please see information on the AEC website, here: [Lodge a financial disclosure return - Australian Electoral Commission \(aec.gov.au\)](https://www.aec.gov.au/lodge-a-financial-disclosure-return)



Contact us

For further assistance, or if you wish to contact the AEC about this notice or the collection of your information, please contact the AEC's Privacy Officer.

You can make an enquiry in writing, over the phone or through our [online privacy enquiry form](#).

You can make a privacy complaint to us in writing, over the phone, or through our online forms. Also note that our [Privacy Policy](#) contains information about how you can complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles, and how the AEC will deal with such a complaint.

In writing: The Privacy Officer
Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

Over the phone: 13 23 26

Online forms: You can make a privacy enquiry through our [online privacy enquiry form](#).

When submitting an online enquiry, please select "Privacy" from the drop-down menu

[Assisted contact](#) options are also available.

More detailed information about the way the AEC handles your personal information is set out in our [Privacy Policy](#).

You can also obtain further information from the [Office of the Australian Information Commissioner](#) website, or by telephone on 1300 363 992.