

WHAT IS A POLITICAL DONATION?

A political donation is a gift or loan (other than from a financial institution) provided to or for the benefit of –

- a political party¹; or
- an elected member or councillor; or
- a candidate in an election; or
- another entity to make or reimburse a gift to the above mentioned groups or incur electoral expenditure (see Fact Sheet ‘What is electoral expenditure?’).

Political donations include **all** fundraising contributions, as well as fees paid for political party subscriptions, membership or affiliations if the total amount paid exceeds \$1000 in a calendar year.

Gifts made in a private capacity for personal use are not considered a political donation. However, if any part of the gift is later used for electoral expenditure or for an elected member or councillor to carry out their duties, then that part of the gift is considered a political donation.

What is a gift?

For the purpose of political donations, a gift is any transfer of property from one entity to another with no or inadequate consideration of its reasonable value. A gift can be:

- monetary or non-monetary; or
- services at no or below cost; or

- uncharged interest on loans; or
- fundraising contributions to attend or participate in election fundraising functions or fundraising ventures.

Where the gift is property, the gift is to be valued at the current market value.

Where the gift is a provision of a service, the value of the gift is the amount that would be reasonably charged for the service if it was provided on a commercial basis.

A fundraising contribution is the amount paid as a contribution, entry fee or other payment, which entitles someone to participate in or benefit from a fundraising venture or function.

A gift does not include volunteer labour or the incidental use of a volunteer’s vehicle or equipment.

¹ A political party, for the purposes of this legislation, is a party with at least one object being the promotion of election to the Legislative Assembly of candidates endorsed by it. Associated entities of the party are also included.

More information about prohibited donors

The rules and requirements applying to prohibited donors are determined in the *Electoral Act 1992* and the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, which are available at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

If you have further questions, or would like more information about the obligations relating to the Prohibited Donors Scheme, please visit www.ecq.qld.gov.au, or contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing pds@ecq.qld.gov.au.