

INFORMATION FOR DONORS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

What do I have to do?

If you incur expenditure for a political activity (including making a donation to a political candidate) of \$500 or more within a disclosure period, you must disclose to the ECQ. You also have to disclose if you receive a gift of \$500 or more which enabled you to incur the expense.

Gifts are cumulative, meaning it does not matter whether the expense or gift was made or received in small amounts, or all at once. Once you meet the threshold of \$500, you must disclose all previous and future gifts or expenses.

Disclosures can be lodged in the ECQ's Electronic Disclosure System, available at www.ecq.qld.gov.au. When disclosing, you will need to tell us:

- The total value of the expenditure being disclosed;
- The date the expenditure was incurred; and
- The particular purpose of the expenditure.

What is an expense for political activity?

An expense for a political activity includes:

- A gift (including a donation) to a candidate;
- A gift (including a donation) to a political party;
- Publication (including radio, television, on the internet or through social media)

of material which may influence voting at an election;

- A public expression of views on an issue in an election; or
- A gift to a person on the understanding that it will be used for any of the above reasons.

When do I have to disclose?

You must lodge your disclosure with the ECQ within 7 business days of reaching the \$500 threshold. Every gift or expenditure item of \$500 or more must be disclosed within 7 business days.

What is the disclosure period?

If you've incurred expenses for political activity

When calculating whether you've expended \$500 or more, you must take into account all expenses for political activities incurred during the disclosure period. The disclosure period starts the day after the notice of the election is published in the local newspaper and ends at 6pm on polling day.

If you've received a gift to enable your expenditure

When calculating whether you've received an enabling gift of \$500 or more, you must take into account all gifts received 30 days after the last quadrennial local government election, and ends 30 days after polling day for the current election.

More information about your disclosure obligations

The rules and requirements relating to disclosure obligations are determined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, which is available at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

If you need more information relating to your disclosure obligations, please contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing fad@ecq.qld.gov.au.