

## INFORMATION FOR FEDERAL BRANCHES OF REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES

This fact sheet relates to the federal branches or related parties of Queensland registered political parties.

Federal political parties and interstate branches of political parties that are registered in Queensland are required to comply with the provisions of the *Electoral Act 1992* to the extent that they participate in Queensland State elections and by-elections.

This means that federal parties and interstate branches of parties that **incur electoral expenditure** towards a State election may be required to formally register with the ECQ as a third party.

Normal disclosure requirements for gifts and loans received or made to election participants also apply and disclosure returns must be lodged in the [Electronic Disclosure System](#) (EDS).

### Expenditure caps

For a **general election**, the expenditure cap for a registered third party is:

- a maximum of **\$87,000 per electoral district**, and
- up to a **total of \$1 million** for the election.

For a **by-election**, the expenditure cap for a registered third party is **\$87,000**.

Expenditure cap amounts are CPI adjusted 30 days after each general election.

Non-compliance with the caps during a capped expenditure period for an election is an offence with substantial penalties (section 281G). In addition to potential prosecution, the ECQ may recover double

the value of the expenditure that exceeded the cap as a debt due to the State (section 281J).

### Registration as a third party

A third party **must** register with the ECQ if they spend, or someone they authorise spends, cumulatively more than **\$6,000 in electoral expenditure**, during the **expenditure cap period** for an election (section 297).

For the **2020 State general election**, the **expenditure cap period** is 1 August until 6pm on 31 October 2020.

Registered third parties must operate a dedicated **State campaign bank account** (sections 214 and 215) and third parties that are entities or organisations must appoint an **agent** (section 208(1)). Third parties who are individuals may appoint an agent if they wish. An agent is responsible for ensuring that the third party's funding and disclosure obligations are fulfilled.

Registration as a third party is specific to an election event and ends after funding and disclosure obligations for that election have been met. Third parties need to re-register for subsequent elections.

For more information about third parties, expenditure caps and registration, refer to:

[Fact sheet 11 - Information for third parties](#)  
[Fact sheet 12 - Third party registration process](#), and  
[Fact sheet 9 - Expenditure caps for third parties](#).

More information

For more information relating to Funding, Disclosure and Compliance, please contact the ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing [fad@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:fad@ecq.qld.gov.au).

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## **Examples of activity that engage the *Electoral Act 1992 (Qld)***

- The federal branch of a political party registered in Queensland supports the State party by funding a television advertising campaign worth \$20,000 to support State party-endorsed candidates. The federal branch does not receive payment from the State party, nor does the federal branch invoice the State party for payment. As this amount exceeds the third party registration threshold of \$6,000, the federal party would be required to register with the ECQ as a third party, appoint an agent and notify the ECQ of the details of their dedicated State campaign bank account.
- The interstate branch of a Queensland political party transfers funds to the value of \$10,000 to the Queensland party's bank account to support the election campaign. This is a gift and must be disclosed by the interstate branch in the EDS. It is not counted as electoral expenditure and is not subject to a cap.