# Fact Sheet 6 - State elections

# DISCLOSURE OF ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE

> This fact sheet relates to candidates, registered political parties, associated entities, third parties and donors who incur electoral expenditure towards a State election or by-election.

Candidates, registered political parties, associated entities and registered third parties (including those who should have been registered) all have obligations in relation to the disclosure of electoral expenditure. All election participants should familiarise themselves with the definitions of these terms and disclosure requirements and must ensure their donors are made. They must also ensure that their donors are made aware of their donor disclosure obligations.

The ECQ is required to publish disclosure returns under the *Electoral Act 1992*. The public disclosure of electoral expenditure ensures the integrity and transparency of the funding of political campaigns in Queensland.

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**2020 State General Election**

**Caps** (limits) on the amount of electoral expenditure which may be incurred by candidates, registered political parties and third parties during an **expenditure cap period** for an election will apply for the 2020 State general election.

For the 2020 State General Election, the **capped expenditure period** will be from 1 August 2020 until 6pm on 31 October 2020.

Electoral expenditure that is incurred to obtain goods that are **first used for a campaign purpose** during the 2020 State election capped expenditure period is **not** counted towards an election participant's cap if a contract for supply of the goods was entered into before 17 June 2020.

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For definitions and examples of electoral expenditure, and when expenditure is taken to be incurred, refer to Fact Sheet 5 - Definition of electoral expenditure.

For information about expenditure caps, refer to the relevant fact sheet:

- Fact sheet 7 - Expenditure caps for registered political parties and endorsed candidates
- Fact sheet 8 - Expenditure caps for independent candidates
- Fact sheet 9 - Expenditure caps for third parties.

## Who is required to disclose electoral expenditure and when must the return be lodged?

Under section 283 of the *Electoral Act*, candidates, registered political parties, associated entities and registered third parties (including those who should have been registered) must disclose electoral expenditure in an **election summary return within 15 weeks after the election**.

All electoral expenditure must be disclosed to the ECQ whether it was incurred within the capped expenditure period or not.

Electoral expenditure valued at **$1,000** or more, that is 'gifted' to an electoral participant for the benefit of a State election campaign (see section 200B for the meaning of 'gifted' for electoral expenditure) must be disclosed in the Electronic Disclosure System by both the donor and the recipient as a gift made/received. (See also Fact Sheet 3 - Disclosure of gifts and loans).

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### What details must be disclosed?

Each item of electoral expenditure requires disclosure of the following information:

- the name and address of the person who supplied the goods or services
- a description of the goods or service
- the amount of the expenditure, and
- when the expenditure was incurred.

Expenditure items can be inputted into the Electronic Disclosure System (EDS) individually or entered by bulk upload. The template for a bulk upload, which may also be used for record-keeping throughout the disclosure period, is available from the Help and Downloads section of the EDS.

Should it not be possible to lodge a return via the Electronic Disclosure System, please contact the ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing fad@ecq.qld.gov.au.

Candidates and registered political parties should note that the lodgement of election summary returns is a separate process from a claim for election funding. An election funding claim for electoral expenditure can be submitted **within 20 weeks of election day** and has additional record-keeping and evidence requirements. Refer to Fact sheet 20 - Election funding claims for more information.