

ENDORSEMENT OF A CANDIDATE BY A REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTY

This fact sheet relates to registered political parties and endorsed candidates in State elections and by-elections.

Registered political parties are required to notify the ECQ of the endorsement, or withdrawal of endorsement, of a candidate under section 306A and section 91A the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Notifying the ECQ of endorsement

Registered political parties must notify the ECQ if:

- the party endorses a person to be a candidate for an election,
- the party proposes to endorse a candidate for an election, such as by publicly announcing an intention to endorse a person as a candidate, or incurring electoral expenditure for the benefit of the person as a candidate in the election,
- the party changes its endorsement or proposed endorsement of a person before polling day for an election, or
- an elected member stops being a member of the party.

The ECQ must be notified **within 7 days**. The registered officer of the party should complete the relevant form [Form QSG18](#).

When notifying the ECQ of the party's endorsement, the party must also notify the ECQ of the details of the candidate's **dedicated State campaign account**. The bank account details can also be provided separately; but must be provided to the ECQ **within 5 business days** of the person's endorsement.

Notifying the ECQ of a withdrawal of endorsement

Registered political parties must notify the ECQ (in the approved form) of the withdrawal of an endorsement of a candidate for an election if:

- the party has already endorsed a person to be a candidate, then changes its endorsement to another person, or
- the party nominates a person as a candidate, then withdraws the party's endorsement of that person.

The ECQ must be notified **within 7 days**. The registered officer of the party can complete the relevant form [Form QSG20](#).

If the notice of withdrawal is given to the ECQ **before** the close of nominations, the candidate's nomination is of no effect (i.e. the nomination is automatically withdrawn).

If the notice of withdrawal is given to the ECQ **after** nominations have closed, the candidate's name will still appear on the ballot paper, adjacent to the party's name. However, the candidate would be considered by the ECQ to be contesting the election as an independent candidate.

The ECQ will notify the candidate, as soon as practicable, on receiving a notification of their endorsement by the party or a notification of withdrawal of their endorsement by the party and whether their nomination remains valid, depending on when the party notifies the ECQ of the withdrawal of endorsement.