

ASSOCIATED ENTITIES**Funding and disclosure overview**

Unless otherwise stated, all references to legislation are to the *Electoral Act 1992* (EA). The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your circumstances, you should seek independent legal advice.

This fact sheet is for associated entities of registered political parties or candidates in state government elections.

What is an associated entity?

An associated entity:

- is controlled by a registered party (or a group of candidates endorsed by the party) or candidate

or

- operates wholly or to a significant extent for the benefit of a registered political party (or a group of candidates endorsed by the party) or candidate

or

- operates for the dominant purpose of promoting a registered political party (or group of candidates endorsed by the party) or candidate.

For **registered political parties**, an associated entity is not:

- a candidate endorsed by the party for the election
- a related political party
- a federal or interstate branch or division of the party.

For **candidates**, an associated entity is not:

- another candidate who is endorsed by the same registered political party
- the associated entity of a registered political party who endorsed the candidate
- an electoral committee formed to help the candidate's election campaign.

Agents and associated entities

If a registered political party or candidate in an election has an associated entity, the agent of the party or candidate must take all reasonable steps to inform the associated entity about its obligations such as those regarding donations, expenditure, reporting and disclosure.

The agent must establish and maintain appropriate systems to support the associated entity in complying with its obligations.

Do associated entities need their own state campaign bank account?

An associated entity must use the state campaign bank account of its registered political party or candidate. All electoral expenditure must be paid from this account and all political donations must be paid into this account.

Version: April 2024

More information

If you need more information relating to Funding, Disclosure and Compliance, please contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing fad@ecq.qld.gov.au.



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For more information on state campaign bank accounts for state elections, refer to:

[Fact sheet 11 – State campaign bank accounts for registered political parties](#)

[Fact sheet 16 – State campaign bank accounts for candidates](#)

Do electoral expenditure caps apply to associated entities?

When an associated entity spends money during a capped expenditure period, the electoral expenditure incurred counts towards the expenditure cap of the registered political party or candidate with which it is associated.

Both the associated entity and the party or candidate must ensure they do not collectively exceed the expenditure cap. Significant penalties apply for failure to comply with these laws.

For more information on expenditure caps, please refer to the relevant fact sheet:

[Fact sheet 14 – Expenditure caps for registered political parties and endorsed candidates](#)

[Fact sheet 18 – Expenditure caps for independent candidates](#)

Do political donation caps apply to associated entities?

When an associated entity receives a political donation, the donation is taken to be received by the registered political party or candidate with which it is associated. Political donations received by an associated entity will count towards the registered political party's or candidate's donation cap.

Any political donations received by an associated entity must be paid into the state campaign bank account of the party or candidate within 5 business days of receiving the donor statement.

Both the associated entity and the party or candidate must ensure they do not collectively exceed the political donation cap.

For more information about the political donation caps, please refer to [Fact sheet 6 – Political donation caps](#).

Disclosure obligations of associated entities

DISCLOSURE OF GIFTS, LOANS, AND POLITICAL DONATIONS RECEIVED

Associated entities must disclose all gifts, loans and political donations received of \$1,000 or more. Returns for gifts, loans and political donations must be lodged with the ECQ within 7 business days or within 24 hours if the gift is received within 7 days before election day.

For more information on disclosure of gifts, loans and political donations, refer to the following fact sheets:

[Fact sheet 12 – Real-time disclosure of gifts and loans for registered political parties](#)

[Fact sheet 17 – Real-time disclosure of gifts and loans for candidates](#)

More information on state government elections

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DISCLOSURE OF ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED

All associated entities must give an election summary return within 15 weeks after election day. The return must state all electoral expenditure incurred (or if none was incurred).

See [Fact sheet 8 – Disclosure of electoral expenditure and election summary returns](#) for more information.

PERIODIC RETURNS

All associated entities must lodge a periodic return if they were associated with a registered political party or candidate at any time during a reporting period (January 1 – 30 June or 1 July – 31 December).

[Fact sheet 13 – Periodic returns](#) has more information to review.

Record keeping

All associated entities must keep records for 5 years. This is required to demonstrate compliance in relation to all electoral expenditure, political donation, disclosure and state campaign bank account requirements. For more details, see [Fact sheet 4 – Record keeping requirements](#).

Compliance

The ECQ is responsible for administering and enforcing the EA which includes penalties for election participants who breach their obligations.

The compliance framework is available on the [ECQ website](#).

For further information

This fact sheet mainly refers to part 11 of the EA. The EA is available in full at legislation.qld.gov.au. Participants in the electoral process should ensure they understand their obligations under the EA.

More information on state government elections

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RELATED FACT SHEETS

Fact sheet 2 – Election signage

Fact sheet 4 – Record keeping requirements

Fact sheet 6 – Political donation caps

Fact sheet 8 – Disclosure of electoral expenditure and election summary returns

Fact sheet 11 – State campaign bank accounts for registered political parties

Fact sheet 12 – Real-time disclosure of gifts, loans and political donations by registered political parties

Fact sheet 13 – Periodic returns

Fact sheet 14 – Expenditure caps for registered political parties and endorsed candidates

Fact sheet 16 – State campaign bank accounts for candidates

Fact sheet 17 – Real-time disclosure of gifts, loans and political donations by candidates

Fact sheet 18 – Expenditure caps for independent candidates

Fact sheets can be found on the [ECQ website](#).

More information on state government elections

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