

Shawn O'Brien, Registrar of Political Parties  
Funding & Disclosure Section, Legal & Compliance Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
PO Box 6172  
Kingston ACT 2604

Re: Application to change the Registered Officer of the Australian Democrats –  
December 2012

Dear Shawn,


My signature is not on the form to change the Registered Officer because I knew nothing about the application. It is my opinion that this application is not a legitimate submission from the Australian Democrats. As you will be aware there is a small group within the Australian Democrats that is conspiring to take over the party. I believe that the National President (Darren Churchill) and the National Secretary (Roger Howe) will provide you with further information about the recent Australian Democrats National Executive elections and current office holders.

I have been a member of the Australian Democrats since 1988 and have held a number of significant positions within the party since that time, and my knowledge of the party constitution and electoral practices is reasonably good. The real determinant of power within the Australian Democrats comes from member ballots rather than personal claims to positions. The latest members ballot for National Executive positions has now been held and I believe gives the legitimate result to who holds what position in the party.

While the people who signed the application to change the Registered Officer may or may not be members of the party (as is required by the electoral act), it is my contention that they do not have the authority to make this decision on behalf of the party - that can only be done by a motion of the National Executive.

May I request that you wait until you are confident about the legitimacy of purported Australian Democrats office holders before making any determination about this application?

John Charles Bell  
Registered Officer, Australian Democrats

  
13 January 2013 