



**National President  
Darren Churchill**

President@democrats.org.au  
16th January, 2013

www.democrats.org.au

**National Secretary  
Roger Howe (Acting)**

Secretary@democrats.org.au

Shawn O'Brien, Registrar of Political Parties  
Australian Electoral Commission  
West Block Offices  
Victoria Terrace  
PARKES ACT 2600

**RECEIVED**  
18 JAN 2013  
**Funding & Disclosure**

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Suite 11/22 Stirling Street, Thebarton SA  
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PO Box 6172  
KINGSTON ACT 2604

**Australian Capital Territory**

PO Box 4070, Kingston ACT 2604  
0412 196 473  
info@act.democrats.org.au

Dear Shawn,

**New South Wales**

PO Box R1680, Royal Exchange Sydney  
NSW 1225  
(02) 9818 4711  
Mobile: 04 2381 3387  
nswdems@democrats.org.au

RE: National Secretary of the Australian Democrats

**Northern Territory**

Please refer to Western Australian  
contacts

We refer to your letter of 19th December, 2012, referring to an application to change the Secretary of the Australian Democrats.

**Queensland**

PO Box 575, Oxenford QLD 4210  
0418 293 629  
secretary@qld.democrats.org.au

We note that our current Secretary, Roger Howe was appointed to the position in August 2011, as per the documents provided when we recorded the change. The position is a two-year appointment, which is renewable. Roger Howe is therefore the National Secretary until the first National Executive meeting after the ballot for the 2013/14 Executive, at which point his appointment may be renewed.

**South Australia**

Suite 11/22 Stirling Street, Thebarton SA  
5031  
(08) 7070 6070  
sa.democrats@democrats.org.au

Please be advised that there has been no valid motion of National Executive to change the National Secretary, since 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 when Roger Howe was appointed to replace Darren Churchill. The appointment was titled "Acting" in order to comply with the party's National Constitution of no person holding both a non-voting and voting position on the National Executive. This was accepted by the AEC and is recorded as "person performing the role of Secretary."

**Tasmania**

PO Box 139, Launceston TAS 7250  
0428 289 8401  
jeremy@australiandemocrats.org.au

Registered Officer, Charlie Bell has advised you "there is a small group within the Australian Democrats that is conspiring to take over the party." Members of that group include members who in March 2012, lodged an unauthorised submission to the AEC's membership audit of the party, which contained many errors and would have resulted in loss of registration. You are also aware of John Davey's involvement behind that unauthorised submission and his false claims to be representing the party, despite being told by the National President his representation was not required.

**Victoria**

PO Box 135, East Melbourne VIC 3002  
(03) 9539 3034  
vicdems@democrats.org.au

The person notifying you of the unauthorised attempt to appoint Stuart Horrex, ie. John Davey holds no officer position in the party (and was involved with the group referred to in the paragraph above). He was elected on count-back to the Victoria Division Executive when Rob Livesay was elected Divisional President. However, Davey (who claims ACT Division membership) holds no other position and is currently the subject of disciplinary action in both the Victoria and ACT Divisions – and of an internal party investigation nationally regarding the renegade submission to the AEC in March 2012. He is **NOT** the National Treasurer.

**Western Australia**

0420 301 170  
office@wa.democrats.org.au

**National Office**

Stuart Horrex is **NOT** the National Secretary. Roger Howe is the National Secretary.



## National President Darren Churchill

President@democrats.org.au      www.democrats.org.au

Stuart Horrex is a Deputy National President (elected on a count-back to replace Jason Heeris, who resigned). However, he holds no other position in the party outside of the New South Wales Division.

The factional group has attempted to conduct unauthorised National Executive business by email motions. This included an attempt to appoint officer positions in a secretive, invalid process, which deliberately excluded three voting members of the National Executive (Darren Churchill, Roger Howe and Trevor Jenner) and included some invalid proxies from Tasmania (not verified by the Secretary) and Queensland (Jim Page), as well as one person claiming to be a Deputy National President when he wasn't (Tim Neal).


The current voting members of National Executive (as of today 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2013) are: Darren Churchill (National President and chair); Roger Howe (Senior Deputy National President); David Collyer, Hayden Ostrom Brown, Stuart Horrex, and Rev. Christopher Ridings (Deputy National Presidents); Drew Simmons (NSW President); Trevor Jenner (ACT Deputy President and Proxy); Robert Livesay (Vic President); Paul Young (WA Acting President); Paulene Hutton (Tas Secretary and Proxy); and Bruce Hogben/Greg Croke (whoever is available, SA Vice Presidents); Mathew Burke (Young Democrats President).


The Qld President would normally hold a vote. However, Paul Cole has not been a member for 12 months (as required by the National Constitution). And the Qld Division Executive has not appointed a valid Proxy.

The current Directory on the back page (attached) of the soon to published January 2013 National Journal shows all national Australian Democrats party positions. Please note, it does show the actual office holder of the State Divisions, not who holds the proxy if that person is already on National Executive – although proxies are usually held by the Divisional Deputy or Secretary.

In light of this information, we ask the AEC to continue to recognise Roger Howe as National Secretary of the Australian Democrats.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Darren Churchill  
National President  
Australian Democrats

  
Roger Howe  
National Secretary (Acting)  
Australian Democrats

## National Secretary Roger Howe (Acting)

Secretary@democrats.org.au

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vicdems@democrats.org.au

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114