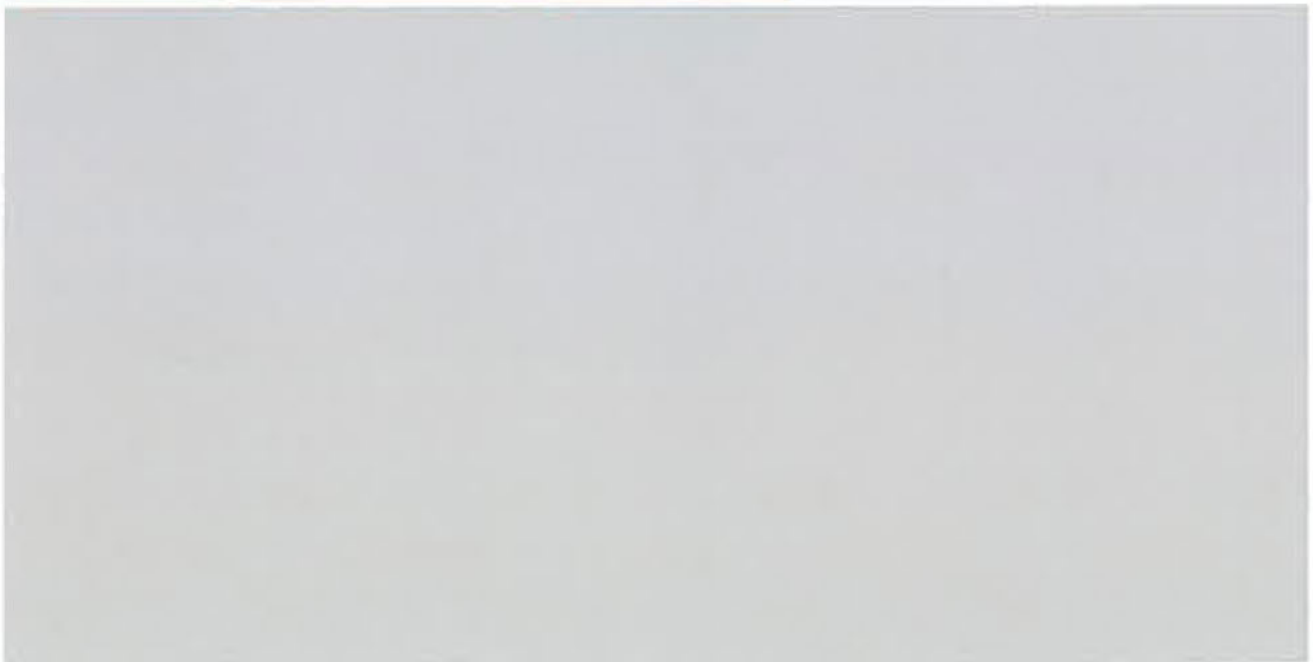


Compliance Review Report

Australian Protectionist Party

August 2013



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

Review details

Location of review: Australian Electoral Commission
West Block, Queen Victoria Terrace
PARKES ACT 2600

AEC review officers: Mary-Ann Waters
Alan Page

Party staff involved: Andrew Phillips

Background

Registered Political Parties and Associated Entities are required under the provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act) to lodge annual disclosure returns. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has powers under the Act to review records and gather relevant information to assess whether disclosure obligations have been met.

The purpose of this initial review was to assess whether the disclosure return for the 2011-12 financial year lodged on behalf of the Australian Protectionist Party (the Party) complies with disclosure obligations as set out in the Act.

Compliance and cooperation.

National Office

During the review, AEC staff examined the manual financial records of the National Office for the 2011-12 financial year. The Party fully complied with the s316(2A) notice in delivering all the requested records to the AEC by the due date.

Unregistered State committee/Party Units

The Party advised that it no longer operates a State committee or party units. As a result of this advice, no evaluation of either entity were carried out during this review.

Review comments

The records maintained by the central administration of the Party are considered to be sufficient to allow disclosure obligations under the Act to be fully and accurately discharged. Examination of these records supported the financial disclosures reported in the Party's return for the 2011/12 financial year. Financial reports were obtained from all State committees/party units and incorporated into the Party's return.

For future consideration, the party agent should be aware that if the party is unable to obtain all of the financial information required for inclusion in its annual disclosure returns, it is essential that the party has regard to section 318 (inability to complete a return) of the Act. Without such an accompanying notice, a Party Agent can be held liable for the offence of having lodged an incomplete return. Complying with this section in full will release the party agent from any legal obligation. The easiest way to lodge your return accurately and on time is to use the eReturns portal. For more information please refer to the [Guide](#) produced for Party Agents available on the AEC's website at the following address. http://www.aec.gov.au/Parties_and_Representatives/financial_disclosure/guides/political-parties/index.htm

When submitting your working document in future reviews, please ensure that all the totals reached by the party mirrors the totals disclosed or, alternatively, also provide workings of the adjustments that reconcile both documents. If the monetary amounts controlled by the party increases, consideration should be given to procuring an electronic record keeping system such as Quicken or MYOB.

Conclusion

Based on the records provided, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Party has not complied, in all material respects, with its disclosure obligations under the Act.

Enquiries and Assistance

Should the party require any assistance regarding its disclosure obligations under the Act, please contact the AEC's Funding and Disclosure Section either on telephone number (02) 6271 4552 or by email at fad@aec.gov.au.