

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT (FINANCE AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2023

**1106. Hon BEN DAWKINS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Electoral Affairs:**

I refer to the media reports today relating to the government's plans to overhaul donation laws. Now that the government is planning an almost doubling of public funding for political parties, I ask the following —

- (1) Will the minister require political parties to comply with basic financial record keeping, reporting and accountability standards such as those set out in part 5 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015?
- (2) Will the minister require political parties and their executive officers to comply with basic governance standards, such as disclosure of conflicts and officer duties, such as those set out in part 4 of the abovementioned act?
- (3) If no to (1) and (2), is the minister aware that a local sporting club, by virtue of its incorporation, is required to comply with the above standards, even though it does not receive millions of dollars of taxpayers' money?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) The reforms in the Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Bill 2023 outlined this morning by the Minister for Electoral Affairs will include reporting requirements for political parties and candidates in relation to claims lodged for reimbursement of electoral expenditure. Those claims are subject to scrutiny by the Western Australian Electoral Commission and require appropriate evidence of expenditure. The bill will also provide for new offences, as well as robust penalties for noncompliance. The commission will be resourced to undertake this task. The administrative and organisational structures and requirements for political parties are not within the jurisdiction of the WA Electoral Commission, other than to ensure compliance by senior office holders with relevant provisions of the Electoral Act 1907.