

# Political Finance Annual Report

Report on the operation of  
Part VI of the *Electoral Act 1907*  
for the period ended 30 June 2020



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

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# Introduction

In accordance with section 175ZG of the *Electoral Act 1907* (the Act), this report has been prepared for submission to the Minister, and subsequently each House of Parliament, to summarise the operation of Part VI of the Act during the 2019–2020 financial year.

Annual returns for 2019–2020 were required to be lodged with the Commission by 30 November 2020, with copies available publicly on the Commission’s website from 29 December 2020. All fifteen registered political parties, and four unregistered political parties, complied with the legislative requirement for annual disclosure. In addition, six associated entities lodged annual returns for 2019–2020. Data provided in the annual disclosure returns for the 2019–2020 financial year are detailed on the Commission’s website, [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au).

The Commission commenced a review of all registered political parties in the first half of the 2019–2020 financial year. This review is undertaken prior to each State election to verify the eligibility of the political parties to remain registered. It was anticipated that the review would be completed late in 2020, in advance of the 2021 State Election, given nine political party membership audits had to be conducted.

Although this report is compiled after the 2021 State Election, the disclosure requirements resulting from the election will be reported in the 2020–2021 Political Finance Annual Report. At the time of compilation of this report, the lodgement deadline for election returns and funding claims had not yet been reached.



Robert Kennedy

**ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER**

# Summary of disclosures and public funding through the 2019–2020 financial year

## 1. Financial disclosures

### 1.1 Annual returns by political parties and associated entities –

- \$9,880,324.16 in gifts and other income was declared by 19 political parties.
- \$2,627,035.00 in gifts and other income was declared by six associated entities.

Table 1: Comparison of disclosure returns

Gifts & other income declared by:	Financial year	
	2019–2020	2018–2019
Political parties	\$9,880,324.16	\$15,415,530.75
Associated entities	\$2,627,035.00	\$2,217,514.00

Under section 175N(5) of the Act, political parties and associated entities are entitled to meet their State disclosure obligations by lodging the same return prepared for the Australian Electoral Commission under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (CEA)<sup>1</sup>, if they are obliged to submit a Federal return. Four registered political parties and four associated entities met their disclosure requirements by submitting their Federal return for the 2019–2020 reporting period.

<sup>1</sup> The CEA disclosure threshold for individual donations for 2019–2020 was \$14,000, whereas the State threshold was \$2,500.

### 1.2 Part VI disclosures

- Four political parties updated details for their party agent.
- Five political parties changed their party secretary.
- 155 public agencies disclosed to Parliament expenditure of \$107,475,044.47 relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising agencies.

Table 2: Summary of certain expenditure by public agencies during the 2019–2020 financial year

Class of expenditure	Amount of expenditure declared
Advertising agencies	\$33,684,536.11
Market research organisations	\$8,031,977.18
Polling organisations	\$6,964.97
Direct mail organisations	\$2,995,406.39
Media advertising organisations	\$62,756,159.82
<b>Total expenditure declared (155 agencies)</b>	<b>\$107,475,044.47</b>

The appendix to this report provides a breakdown by public agency of each class of expenditure.

## 2. Public funding

There were no electoral events held in the 2019–2020 financial year that attracted public funding.

# Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act



Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Agricultural Produce Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Animal Resources Authority	29,114.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,114.06
Anzac Day Trust <sup>a, b</sup>						
Aqwest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,217.00	3,217.00
Art Gallery of Western Australia	2,728.00	16,620.00	0.00	0.00	28,292.00	47,640.00
Auditor General, Office of the	285.00	91,665.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	91,950.00
Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of	88,278.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	97,926.97	186,205.48
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	25,980.00	18,351.00	5,340.00	813.64	46,760.01	97,244.65
Building and Construction Industry Training Board	99,117.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	377,753.00	476,870.00
Burswood Park Board	338.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,177.00	2,515.00
Busselton Water Corporation	0.00	266,655.00	0.00	18,619.00	21,387.00	306,661.00
Central Regional TAFE <sup>a</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	386,281.00	386,282.00
ChemCentre	1,324.00	316.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,640.00
Child and Adolescent Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,356.00	9,356.00
Coal Miners' Welfare Board <sup>b</sup>						
Coastal Shipping Commission, Western Australian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Combat Sports Commission	4,515.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,515.05
Commissioner for Children and Young People	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communities, Department of	51,161.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,737.05	57,898.20
Conservation and Parks Commission <sup>b</sup>						
Construction Industry Long Service Leave Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia	24,371.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,371.00
Country Health Service, Western Australia	0.00	124,500.00	0.00	0.00	51,604.00	176,104.00
Country Housing Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Curtin University of Technology <sup>a</sup>	1,938,974.00	107,276.00	0.00	0.00	3,875,170.00	5,921,420.00
Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment <sup>b</sup>						
Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disability Services Commission	1,256.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,256.49
East Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,471.00	6,471.00
Economic Regulation Authority	11,950.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,950.86

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Edith Cowan University <sup>a</sup>	1,770,089.00	8,984.00	0.00	0.00	3,335,157.00	5,114,230.00
Education, Department of	788,314.00	95,235.00	0.00	0.00	932,521.00	1,816,070.00
Energy Policy WA	3,318.00	0.00	0.00	1,684.00	0.00	5,002.00
Environmental Protection Authority <sup>b</sup>						
Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	905.45	770.01	0.00	1,675.46
Finance, Department of	4,949.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,949.00
Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fire and Emergency Services, Department of	39,493.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	1,100,369.00	1,139,877.00
Forest Products Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,355.00	19,355.00
Fremantle Ports	20,560.17	53,361.50	0.00	204.55	61,879.67	136,005.89
Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia	447.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	447.72
Gascoyne Development Commission	12,129.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,129.00
Gold Corporation	2,825,661.00	32,500.00	0.00	119,386.00	0.00	2,977,547.00
Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission	3,166.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,166.16
Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB)	0.00	82,175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82,175.00
Governors Establishment <sup>b</sup>						
Great Southern Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	452,312.00	452,312.00
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office	6,674.65	0.00	0.00	327.24	0.00	7,001.89
Health Support Services	12,031.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,031.68
Health, Department of	1,321,627.00	887,472.00	0.00	29,839.00	2,535,625.00	4,774,563.00
Healthway	0.00	12,595.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,595.00
Horizon Power	131,779.88	141,710.00	0.00	575.00	267,092.16	541,157.04
Housing Authority	133,372.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	999,151.00	1,132,523.00
Information Commissioner of Western Australia, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Infrastructure Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	623.51	623.51
Inspector of Custodial Services, Office of the	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance Commission of Western Australia	11,391.00	31,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,754.00	49,145.00
Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	834,700.00	834,700.00
Justice, Department of	189,371.00	43,680.00	0.00	0.00	104,861.00	337,912.00
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	146,099.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	146,099.00

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act



Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Kimberley Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kimberley Ports Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,126.77	21,126.77
Law Reform Commission of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia	92,010.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	92,010.00
Legal Costs Committee <sup>b</sup>						
Legal Practice Board of Western Australia <sup>b</sup>						
Legislative Assembly, Department of	8,419.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,419.00
Legislative Council, Department of <sup>b</sup>						
Liquor Commission of Western Australia	468.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	468.00
Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Department of	1,581.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,581.82
Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee <sup>b</sup>						
Lotterywest	4,033,996.00	406,209.00	0.00	5,202.00	12,525,656.00	16,971,063.00
Main Roads Western Australia	37,300.00	189,400.00	0.00	23,200.00	111,600.00	361,500.00
Mental Health Advocacy Service	4,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,500.00
Mental Health Commission	5,000.00	324,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,882,132.00	3,275,132.00
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board	0.00	25,317.00	0.00	0.00	1,078.00	26,395.00
Mid West Development Commission	2,707.00	3,830.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,537.00
Mid West Ports <sup>b</sup>						
Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Department of	618,483.58	10,562.95	719.52	28,572.93	0.00	658,338.98
Murdoch University <sup>a, b</sup>						
National Trust of Australia (WA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Metropolitan Health Service	68,976.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58,448.00	92,936.00
North Metropolitan TAFE <sup>a</sup>	38,400.00	0.00	0.00	70,269.00	15,673.00	124,342.00
North Regional TAFE <sup>a</sup>	256,237.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,289.00	278,526.00
Ombudsman Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,588.00	14,588.00
Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission <sup>b</sup>						
Parliamentary Services Department <sup>b</sup>						
PathWest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,454.00	8,454.00
Peel Development Commission	0.00	257.85	0.00	1,850.71	58.96	2,167.52
Perth Theatre Trust	74,933.58	15,051.85	0.00	4,958.41	125,241.08	220,184.92

continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Pharmacy Registration Board of Western Australia <sup>b</sup>						
Pilbara Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,899.51	1,899.51
Pilbara Ports Authority	59,801.00	72,100.00	0.00	0.00	83,004.00	214,905.00
Planning, Lands and Heritage, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	520,911.08	520,911.08
Postgraduate Medical Council of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Premier and Cabinet, Department of the	575,264.00	86,650.00	0.00	0.00	2,098,312.00	2,760,226.00
Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of	191,507.00	464,955.00	0.00	94,638.00	519,236.00	1,270,336.00
Professional Standards Councils	552.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.93	678.84
Public Advocate, Office of the	2,978.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,978.00
Public Education Endowment Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Sector Commission	35,806.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	94,084.00	129,890.00
Public Transport Authority	1,286,760.00	222,860.00	0.00	0.00	262,907.00	1,772,527.00
Public Trustee	0.00	43,364.00	0.00	0.00	48,028.00	91,392.00
Quadriplegic Centre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Racing and Wagering Western Australia	6,708,000.00	316,000.00	0.00	184,000.00	11,325,000.00	18,533,000.00
Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal of Western Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rottneest Island Authority	114,555.00	13,091.00	0.00	0.00	115,086.00	242,732.00
Rural Business Development Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School Curriculum and Standards Authority <sup>b</sup>						
Small Business Development Corporation	235,913.00	38,687.00	0.00	0.00	287,425.00	562,025.00
South Metropolitan Health Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,264.00	9,264.00
South Metropolitan TAFE <sup>a</sup>	167,488.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73,523.35	241,011.35
South Regional TAFE <sup>a</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	201,292.49	201,292.49
South West Development Commission <sup>b</sup>						
Southern Ports	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,969.00
State Administrative Tribunal <sup>b</sup>						
State Coroner for Western Australian, Office of the <sup>b</sup>						
State Emergency Management Committee <sup>b</sup>						
State Library of Western Australia	2,470.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.40	2,530.82
State Records Commission <sup>b</sup>						



continued ...

Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
State Supply Commission <sup>b</sup>						
State Training Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swan Bells Foundation <sup>b</sup>						
Swan River Trust <sup>b</sup>						
Synergy <sup>b</sup>						
Tourism Western Australia	972,000.00	1,293,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,728,000.00	6,993,000.00
Training Accreditation Council, Office of <sup>b</sup>						
Training and Workforce Development, Department of	124,031.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	383,380.00	507,411.00
Transport, Department of	36,680.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,608.19	39,288.19
Treasury Corporation, Western Australian	2,755.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,755.00
Treasury, Department of	8,141.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,141.00
University of Western Australia <sup>a</sup>	1,060,361.00	229,702.00	0.00	34,398.00	2,454,823.00	3,779,284.00
VenuesWest	0.00	20,673.00	0.00	0.00	886,950.00	907,623.00
Veterinary Surgeons Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Waste Authority	4,664.00	33,670.00	0.00	1,370.00	16,404.00	56,108.00
Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	155,530.29	155,530.29
Water Corporation	2,412,507.00	847,980.00	0.00	0.00	759,788.00	4,020,275.00
Western Australian Building Management Authority <sup>b</sup>						
Western Australian Electoral Commission	1,565.00	0.00	0.00	1,809,500.90	157,414.89	1,968,480.79
Western Australian Energy Disputes Arbitrator	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association	189,427.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	189,427.00
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Chief Commissioner of the <sup>b</sup>						
Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Department of the Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,785.00	16,785.00
Western Australian Land Information Authority [Landgate]	15,932.00	93,210.00	0.00	0.00	216,671.00	325,813.00
Western Australian Meat Industry Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Australian Museum	0.00	116,668.02	0.00	0.00	312,261.08	428,929.10
Western Australian Police Force	1,438,329.42	387,939.01	0.00	951.00	4,028,093.43	5,855,312.86
Western Australian Regional Development Trust <sup>b</sup>						

continued ...

## Appendix: Summary of expenditure disclosed by agencies and statutory authorities under section 175ZE of the Act

Agency	Advertising agencies \$	Market research organisations \$	Polling organisations \$	Direct mail organisations \$	Media advertising organisations \$	Total \$
Western Australian Reproductive Technology Council <sup>b</sup>						
Western Power	3,064,396.00	729,033.00	0.00	522,362.00	1,426,320.00	5,742,111.00
Wheatbelt Development Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,093.00	2,093.00
WorkCover Western Australia	0.00	288.00	0.00	497.00	2,996.00	3,781.00
Zoological Parks Authority	29,774.00	33,383.00	0.00	41,403.00	216,006.00	320,566.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,684,536.11</b>	<b>8,031,977.18</b>	<b>6,964.97</b>	<b>2,995,406.39</b>	<b>62,756,159.82</b>	<b>107,530,526.47<sup>c</sup></b>

Note: The figures above have been reported as stated by agencies in their annual report.

<sup>a</sup> Report was for 2020 calendar year

<sup>b</sup> Did not report on section 175ZE of the Act

<sup>c</sup> Three agencies have provided figures for their total expenditure that did not equal the sum of the classes of expenditure they disclosed. In some cases this is due to rounding by the agency. This figure is the sum of the total expenditure as stated by the agencies. The total expenditure declared, recorded in Table 2 of the report, is the total of the figures provided for expenditure relating to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising organisations.



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