

STATEMENT

By Chairperson, NSW Electoral Commission

8 April 2016

Parties and Elected Members eligible for public funding

On 24 March 2016 the NSW Electoral Commission authorised the payment of public monies from the Administration Fund to the following parties and elected members for the period commencing 1 April 2016:

Name/recipient	Amount
Animal Justice Party	\$48,993.75
Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	\$547,406.25
Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	\$87,881.25
Country Labor Party	\$136,725.00
National Party of Australia - NSW	\$527,850.00
Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	\$87,881.25
The Greens	\$214,950.00
Alexander Greenwich	\$40,837.50
Gregory Piper	\$40,837.50

The amounts above are *advance payments* from the Administration Fund. Under the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* (the Act) an advance payment is available at the beginning of each quarter for eligible parties and independent elected members.

A party or elected member is eligible for payment when all the relevant criteria prescribed in the Act have been met, including that the recipient does not have any outstanding declarations of political donations and electoral expenditure.

Advance payments are claimed by parties and elected members up to four times a year and are payable at the beginning of each quarter (1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October). A recipient must account for the expenditure of this public money by submitting a declaration disclosing what the funds were spent on. The declaration is lodged with the NSW Electoral Commission after the quarter has ended.

If any advance payment exceeds the amount spent by the recipient during the calendar year, the excess amount must be repaid or deducted from a future payment.

"The Commission will publish a statement each time it authorises the payment of public monies under the Administration Fund. This is important public information and promotes awareness of the role of the Commission in regulating the campaign finance scheme and promoting transparency within the scheme," the Commission's Chairperson, the Hon Keith Mason AC QC said.

More information about public funding claims is available at:

http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/fd/public_funding

About the NSW Electoral Commission (the Commission)

In December 2014, the 3 member NSW Electoral Commission was constituted. It is separate to the staff agency led by the Electoral Commissioner. The Commission is an independent, statutory authority. It approves public funding to political parties and others and enforces provisions of three NSW Acts. These provisions govern electoral funding, expenditure and disclosures, the conduct of State elections and the lobbying of government officials. The Commission's Chairperson is the Hon Keith Mason AC QC, a former President of the NSW Court of Appeal (1997-2008). Information about the Commission's work is at:

http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/about_us/work_of_the_commission