



KYLEA TINK'S POSITION ON INTEGRITY IN FEDERAL POLITICS

Public trust in the Government is essential to a strong democracy. Governments are entrusted to spend taxpayers' funds efficiently and for the public good. Alarming, public trust in both our government and individual politicians has eroded significantly in the last decade. As such the time is now to introduce legislative reform that can provide greater transparency, accountability and integrity to federal politics.

As the highest office holders in our land federal politicians should be held to the highest standards regarding:

- their professional behaviour
- the information used in political campaigns
- the potential influences on policy making by donors
- the use of public funds.

If elected as North Sydney's representative, **Kylea Tink would support:**

THE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEDERAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION

The Government has long promised legislation for a strong, independent Federal Integrity Commission.

- In October 2020 Independent MP Helen Haines introduced a bill to establish the Australian Federal Integrity Commission which would have:
 - powers of assessment, investigation and referral to respond to allegations of serious and/or systemic corruption (like those in each State and Territory)
 - power to hold public hearings
 - comprehensive procedural fairness and whistleblower safeguards.
- A motion to discuss the bill was defeated by the Government on a technicality.

If elected, Kylea would support Helen Haines' Federal Integrity Commission bill.

TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTORAL FUNDING

Millions of dollars are received every year by the major parties with much of the information regarding its source remaining undisclosed. This perpetuates a perception that money pays for access and, in turn, influence.

- Under current laws, a political party only has to disclose donations received above \$14,500 each financial year. Anything under this amount is not declarable, so the donors of large amounts of money remain anonymous. This means that the voting public are in the dark about who is influencing party policy.

- At the same time, there is a significant lag between when money is given and when it is reported. This then means that there is a lack of timely transparency around who is potentially influencing what conversation and on what timeline.
- A Bill has been introduced to amend the Commonwealth Electoral Act to require political parties and candidates to disclose all donations above \$1,000 on a quarterly basis and all donations above \$14,500 in real time.

Kylea would:

- **Support the proposed legislation to increase transparency in electoral funding.**
- **Support legislation to reduce caps on political donations, limit campaign spending and introduce real-time donations reporting.**

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Governments are entrusted to spend taxpayer funds efficiently and for the public good, yet there appear to be no consequences for those who misuse public funds. Senior politicians have said that "pork barrelling" is something that "everyone does".

- The Government has recently announced an \$18b increase in infrastructure funding of projects across the country. It has been reported that less than 20% of that sum is to be directed at projects identified on Infrastructure Australia's priority list.
- Grants often seem to be awarded not based on objective criteria but to buy votes. There is no accountability and little public reporting.

Kylea would:

- **Support efforts to stop pork barrelling and mismanagement of public funds by imposing stronger oversight of grants and contracts, including business case, cost benefit criteria and public reporting.**
- **Support stronger powers for the Parliamentary Budget Office and the Australian National Audit Office.**

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

False and misleading statements in the course of elections can distort election outcomes and divert attention from substantive issues.

- It is illegal for a business to make false or misleading claims about their product or competitors, but not for politicians or candidates in relation to political matters.
- In October 2021, Zali Steggall MP introduced a Private Member's Bill that would:
 - expand the scope of Commonwealth law to prohibit statements likely to be misleading, or deceptive to a material extent; and
 - prohibit conduct that would lead a person to believe that electoral material is printed, published, distributed, authorised by a candidate when that is not the case.

Kylea would support legislation that makes it an offence to publish misleading or deceptive material related to a federal political campaign.