

Statement provided by Reason Australia Party for the #OurDemocracy National Integrity Policy Forum

Reason Australia fully endorses the Framework for a Fair Democracy.

Regarding Point 1:

- Reason supports a federal fully funded and powerful Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).
- Reason supports enshrining proper, sufficient funding levels for bodies such as the Audit Office so that information available on government activity and conduct is timely and detailed.
- Reason calls for Ministerial and parliamentary codes of conduct that reflect the behaviour that voters expect and that carry consequences for breaches.
- Reason supports rational, frank, transparent and fearless advice from public servants, as opposed to advisors with vested interests.

Regarding Point 2:

- Reason calls for reform of the lobbying industry to minimise backroom deals and special favours.
- Reason believes ministerial diaries should be publicly available.
- Reason supports mandatory cooling-off periods between politicians having decision making powers in an industry then getting jobs in that same industry (3 Years)
- Reason supports implementing real-time disclosure of political donations.

Regarding Point 3:

- Reason supports donation limits per term of parliament for individuals, not-for-profit organisations, and corporations.
- Reason supports introducing election spending caps for federal elections.
- Reason believes that electoral activity should be supported by public funding and the provision of resources such as airtime, websites and mail-outs to facilitate political communication to ensure a level playing field.
- Ultimately, Reason would like to see an end to private donations to political parties and would aim to achieve this through incremental reforms.
- Reason supports implementing standards of honesty in political advertising.

In Addition:

- Reason supports legislating to protect whistle-blowers and others who expose wrongdoing.

- Reason believes that fostering a better understanding of our parliaments through education is an essential tool of transparency.
- Reason recognises the importance of a diverse media to a strong and transparent democracy. We support strong funding of our public broadcasters, and a Royal Commission to investigate threats to media diversity.