

Statement provided by Andrew Wilkie MP,  
Independent Member for Clark for the  
#OurDemocracy National Integrity Policy Forum

Andrew has long called for a strong, independent and well-funded federal integrity agency. To that end Andrew has supported his crossbench colleagues a number of times in putting forward a bill that would introduce an anti-corruption body with wide ranging powers, but it has not been supported by the Federal Government. The Government has put forward its own half-baked proposal for a federal integrity agency. If the Government has its way, allegations of corruption will be investigated behind closed doors by a toothless body and the results kept secret. Andrew has responded by calling for a federal integrity agency with the necessary powers to prevent, detect and tackle corruption. His view is that the community is sick and tired of dodgy behaviour in Canberra and deserves real action to tackle corruption.

In addition to a strong federal integrity agency, Andrew has been an outspoken advocate for better whistleblower protections and media freedom laws. His Evidence Amendment (Journalists' Privilege) Bill 2011 was one of only 18 Private Members' Bill, up until that time, to pass the Parliament. You can read more about it here:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation/Bills\\_Search\\_Results/Result?bld=r4468](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r4468)

Andrew also believes there is a drastic need to reform the political donations framework. That's why he introduced the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Cleaning up Political Donations) Bill 2022 earlier this year. Andrew's Bill requires real-time disclosure of donations, lowers the donation disclosure threshold to \$1,000 aggregated, implements caps on donations and electoral expenditure, expands the definition of gift, and prohibits political donations from particular industries including fossil-fuel entities, gambling companies, liquor companies, and the tobacco industry. You can read more about Andrew's Bill here:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation/Bills\\_Search\\_Results/Result?bld=r6850](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r6850) and watch his introductory speech here:

<https://andrewwilkie.org/andrew-wilkie-moving-political-donations-reform-bill/>.