

## Australian Progressives Integrity Framework Response

The Australian Progressives have adopted *Political integrity* as a fundamental objective of the Party, sitting alongside *Adaptation and mitigation to the climate crisis* and *Eliminating poverty* in Australia.

Our platform is encompassing of all political life; reaching beyond the obvious and long overdue need for a federal independent commission against corruption. Some of our other policies include clean and fair elections through restrictions on political donations and truth in political advertising, and giving investigative powers with protections for whistleblowers and journalists shining light on poor behaviour.

Unique to the Australian Progressives' version of the Federal ICAC is the far reaching scope of individuals and organisations captured under standing terms of investigative remit - not just Members of Parliament and public servants, but also all recipients of taxpayer funding. Our model also includes protections for funding to ensure the Commission has the resources it needs to pursue matters of public interest.

As with other minor parties' approaches, the Progressives have included retrospectivity dating back to 2008 and the cancellation of post-political entitlements. Amendments currently before our membership include suspending parliamentary eligibility for both individuals and in systemic corruption - whole parties, and requirements for MPs' assets to be held in blind trust for the duration of their representative career to reduce the opportunity for abuse of the privileges of office.

A federal ICAC is only one plank in ensuring political integrity. Donations to political parties have skewed policy outcomes for decades, so the Australian Progressives seek to ban organisational donations and reduce the declaration threshold for individuals. With real time donations declarations this will provide a welcome increase in transparency for parties' policy development.

We also consider political advertising needs to be regulated to ensure truth. All too often political players get away with outright lies and misdirection, slandering their opponents as much as deceiving the electorate with false narratives and spin. Media fact-checkers work overtime to correct the statements but the 24 hour news cycle leaves the essential verification work in the dust.

Finally, our platform recognises the importance of investigative journalism and the bravery of whistleblowers protecting our institutions and taxes from abuse. Therefore we have adopted policies for secure, anonymous channels for reporting corruption, restoring journalists' protections of their sources and works and strengthening protection for whistleblowers against public outing and retaliation.

This is by no means our full suite and we welcome interested voters to review the full political integrity platform at [progressives.org.au/integrity](https://progressives.org.au/integrity)