



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Damian Cantwell – ACT Electoral Commissioner

Redirected to:

Reference: Elections ACT ICT projects

Hearing: 10/11/2025

In relation to: Elections ACT online portal disclosures

Question received: 18/11/2025

Answer Due: 25/11/2025

What is the status of the project to develop an online portal in support of real time financial disclosures by political parties and other entities with reporting obligations, and what are the projected timelines for this project's completion?

Mr Cantwell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Electoral Commission is well advanced in developing an online portal designed to streamline interactions with political participants. This system will enable the online lodgement of gift, annual, and election returns, as well as the submission of registered party candidate nominations.

The module focused on financial disclosure is nearing completion. The Commission is currently awaiting advice from the Digital Canberra (DCBR) team regarding user management platforms available through Azure before releasing the module for User Acceptance Testing. The nomination module is also progressing well but requires integration with ACT Digital Accounts and Westpac financial services prior to finalisation.

A key feature of the financial disclosure module is the automated amalgamation of gifts received from the same donor, ensuring that disclosures and publications occur once the \$1,000 threshold is reached. This functionality depends on the database containing all donations received by a political entity during a financial year. Without a complete dataset, the system cannot accurately publish disclosable gifts on behalf of the entity.

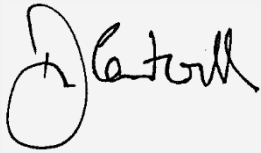
For this reason, the Commission is considering whether to release the completed module when it first becomes available—likely in Q1 2026—which would require entities to retrospectively upload all gifts received since 1 July 2025. The alternative, and the current preference of the Commission, is to defer release until the commencement of the 2026–27 financial year on 1 July 2026. This

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approach would allow entities to begin using the system from the start of the relevant disclosure period and ensure the automated functionality operates as intended.

The release strategy for the financial disclosure module remains under active consideration, and timelines will be confirmed once these strategic decisions are finalised.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Cantwell', is positioned above the signature line.

Signature:

Date: 25 November 2025

By the ACT Electoral Commissioner, Mr Damian Cantwell AM CSC