



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on the Integrity
Commission and Statutory Office
Holders

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the operation of the 2024 ACT Election and Electoral Act 1992

Submission number: 010

Submitter: Lung Foundation Australia

Date authorised for publication: 12 August 2025

31 July 2025

Standing Committee on Integrity Commission Statutory Office Holders

ACT Legislative Assembly

Via email: LACommitteeIntegrity@parliament.act.gov.au

Re: Inquiry into the operation of the 2024 ACT Election and *Electoral Act 1992*

Lung Foundation Australia (LFA) is pleased to provide a submission to the above Inquiry in relation to Terms of Reference item 5b – regulations pertaining to political donations. LFA is a national health peak with a remit to advise on issues pertaining to the *National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030* that includes the *National Tobacco Strategy (NTS) 2023-2030*. Action 1.4 of the NTS calls for the Australian Government and state and territory governments to 'develop and implement measures to prohibit contributions from the tobacco industry and those working to further its interests to political parties, candidates or campaigns'.

Since 2024, LFA have called on Australian states and territories to address Action 1.4 by legislating a ban on political donations from the tobacco industry in their jurisdictions (excluding NSW who already do so and noting that SA banned all political donations effective July 2025). We wrote to the then ACT Minister for Population Health in May 2024 on this issue and included the issue in our election priorities submission for the October 2024 ACT election and in our submission for the 2025-2026 ACT budget in April 2025. The ACT Labor government advised us in September 2024 that "ACT Labor refuses to accept donations from the tobacco industry".

We appreciate that the ACT's main political parties (ACT Labor, Canberra Liberals, and The Greens) publicly state that they do not accept tobacco industry donations. Legislating a ban on such donations would operationalise this principle. The ACT Government already bans donations from certain entities, such as property developers and their associates. At a time when the tobacco industry continues to fight sensible tobacco and e-cigarette reforms, both in Australia and globally, banning donations from the tobacco industry would send a clear message that the tobacco industry should have no influence on ACT public policy. In addition to progressing Action 1.4 of the NTS, a legislative ban on political donations would also help Australia meet its obligations as a signatory to the *WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control*. Article 5.3 of the Convention calls on signatories to ensure public health policy is protected from influence by the tobacco industry and related interests.

We recommend that the Standing Committee on Integrity Commission advise the ACT Government to pursue an amendment to the *Electoral Act 1992* to ban political donations from the tobacco industry. To discuss this matter further, please contact Paige Preston, General Manager of Policy, Advocacy and Prevention

Sincerely,

Mark Brooke

Chief Executive Officer
Lung Foundation Australia