

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
By email: [em@aph.gov.au](mailto:em@aph.gov.au)

### **Submission to the Inquiry into the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017**

The Glebe Society is a long-established community group representing the interests of 400 members in Glebe and Forest Lodge in New South Wales. The Society will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in June 2019 and is proud of its achievements in advocating for the residents of the Glebe Community.

The Society is concerned that the 'Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017' is an attack on Australian democracy. Far from limiting the ability of foreign entities to influence Australian politics, the bill instead seeks to diminish the advocacy work of community groups, civil society organisations and even charities via draconian legislation.

The Glebe Society calls on the Government to reject this Bill. The proposed changes go far beyond the stated intent in relation to foreign donations, and will result in unintended consequences that stifle social advocacy and democratic debate.

The Society is mindful of the need to support an appropriate legislative framework to maintain national security and the integrity of the Australian polity, and note the Government's intention to prevent undue and illegitimate interference in Australia's democratic processes. But we are also concerned that the implementation of these proposed measures appears to be proceeding with undue haste and should be delayed until a more substantial consultation process is undertaken.



**Allan Hogan**  
**President**

12 April, 2018