

Referendum disclosure

The introduction of the referendum disclosure scheme increases the transparency of referendum campaigning and donations and limits foreign influence



Following a referendum, **referendum entities** must lodge returns that provide details of expenditure incurred and donations received during the referendum expenditure period. **Referendum donors** must lodge returns for donations made.

Who is impacted by the disclosure scheme?

If you are **campaigning**:



A **referendum entity** incurs referendum expenditure over the disclosure threshold during the referendum expenditure period

If you are **donating**:



A **referendum donor** makes one or more donations totalling more than the disclosure threshold to a referendum entity in the expenditure period

What is referendum matter?



Matter communicated or intended to be communicated for the dominant purpose of influencing voters in a referendum

What is referendum expenditure?



Expenditure incurred for the dominant purpose of creating or communicating referendum matter

What is the referendum expenditure period?



Starts on the day that is six months **before** the writ for a referendum is issued and ends on the voting day for the referendum

What is the disclosure threshold?



An amount above which disclosure is required applies to the referendum expenditure period. It is currently **\$15,200**

Transparency measures

- Referendum returns are lodged with the AEC by 15 weeks after voting day
- Returns are published 24 weeks after a referendum

Foreign influence limitations

- Foreign donations of more than \$100 are prohibited
- Foreign campaigning is restricted to \$1,000 in a financial year

Further information: [referendum disclosure](https://www.aec.gov.au/referendum-disclosure) at [aec.gov.au](https://www.aec.gov.au)