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cc

Subject
WEL Victoria Submission to the Inquiry into Strengthening Govt and Parliamentary Accountability in Victoria

Women's Electoral Lobby Victoria
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Executive Officer
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Parliament House, Spring Street

East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Inquiry into Strengthening Government and Parliamentary Accountability in Victoria.

Submission from Women's Electoral Lobby, Victoria

Formed in 1972, Women's Electoral Lobby is a national non party political lobby group, with branches in every state. WEL seeks to influence and change social attitudes, public policies and practices which discriminate against women.

Through its lobbying activities, WEL aims to advocate for a society where women's diversity, participation and potential are unrestricted, acknowledged and respected and where women and men share equally in society's responsibilities and rewards.

WEL aims to further the feminist goals of achieving social, legal, political, economic, educational, environmental and sexual equality for women

At the WEL General Meeting held on April 1st, 2007 the following motion was passed:-

"Women fought hard to get the vote and we do not excuse or condone the actions

of governments which fail to fulfill their promises and policies by

a lack of accountability

For these reasons the Women's Electoral Lobby, Victoria submits to the Inquiry the following motion:-

"Women's Electoral Lobby Victoria (WEL) demands of all political parties, the restoration of accountability of our governments by the introduction of legislation to:-

- * codify ministerial responsibility
 - establish a Parliamentary standards Commissioner to monitor and enforce accountability and this is to apply equally to all ministers for all time
- * amend the freedom of information acts to limit exceptions to rules
- * control the lobbying industry by requiring registration of all lobbyists (including WEL) and by preventing ministers, their personal staff and senior public servants from acting as lobbyists until they have left their positions for at least 2 years.
- * limit the duration, level and proportion of contracted staff in any government department.
- * require ministers personal staff and senior public servants to assist parliamentary investigations

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