

# 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)