

A message from the Australian Electoral Commission [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From FAD <FAD@aec.gov.au>
To <secretary@australiasrepresentatives.org>
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Date 2021-09-08 05:01



Mr Sanjeev Sabhlok
Proposed Secretary
Australia's Representatives
Via email: secretary@australiasrepresentatives.org

Dear Mr Sabhlok

Changes to Political Party Registration Legislation

The purpose of this email is to provide you with an overview of the key changes to the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) following the commencement of the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Party Registration Integrity) Act 2021* on 3 September 2021.

The amendments to the Electoral Act that affect applications to register political parties include:

- prohibiting certain party names, abbreviations and logos from being registered (ss 129 and 129A)
- amending the grounds for objecting to the continued registration of a party name, abbreviation or logo (s 134A)
- increasing the membership threshold for registration of a non-Parliamentary party to 'at least 1,500 members' (s 123) – *specific to non-Parliamentary party applications*.

Further information is available on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website here:

https://www.aec.gov.au/Parties_and_Representatives/Party_Registration/guide/index.htm

Prohibiting certain party names, abbreviations and logos from being registered (ss 129 and 129A)

A political party will not be allowed to be registered (or change its registered name or abbreviation) if its proposed name or abbreviation includes a word which is part of the name or abbreviation of an already registered political party - unless it is with that party's consent (s 129 of the Electoral Act).

Similarly, a political party will not be allowed to register a logo that contains a word which is part of the name or abbreviation of an already registered political party - unless it is with that party's consent (s 129A of the Electoral Act).

These prohibitions do not apply to a word that is a function word, a collective noun for people, the name of a country, the word "country", or a recognised geographical place in Australia, or the word "democratic". These prohibitions also do not apply to applications for registration that were submitted before 3 September 2021.

Amending the grounds for objecting to the continued registration of a party name, abbreviation or logo (s 134A)

The new legislation also increases the ways in which a registered political party can object to the continued registration of another party's name, abbreviation, or logo (to align with changes to ss 129 and 129A). These new objection grounds can apply to any registered political party, regardless of the party's date of registration.

Increasing the membership threshold for registration of a non-Parliamentary party to 'at least 1,500 members' (s 123)

The membership threshold to be an *eligible political party* has been amended. The new threshold is for a non-Parliamentary party to have 'at least 1,500 members' (s 123 of the Electoral Act). The previous threshold was 'at least 500 members'. These members must be on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll.

It is a requirement that all applications to register a new non-Parliamentary party include 'a list of the names of the 1,500 members of the party to be relied on for the purposes of registration' (s 126 of the Electoral Act). This requirement also applies to any application to register a new non-Parliamentary party that was in progress as at 3 September 2021.

The AEC will be in contact with you separately to advise the next steps for your particular application given the changes outlined above. In the interim, if you require further information or assistance with the information contained in this letter, refer to the AEC website at www.aec.gov.au.

You may also contact the AEC on 02 6271 4552 or email fad@aec.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Assistant Commissioner
Disclosure, Assurance and Engagement Branch
Australian Electoral Commission

8 September 2021

Party Registration Team

Parliamentary Engagement and Party Registration Section | Disclosure, Assurance & Engagement Branch
Australian Electoral Commission

E: fad@aec.gov.au



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