

## Submission from Hannah March

Should the definition of 'lobbying' be expanded? If so, how? What kinds of activities should be captured by 'lobbying'?

Yes, lobbying is all communication made by lobbyists to elected officials and public servants for the purpose of influencing policy or government decision making. In-house lobbyists should be included.

Should there be exceptions to lobbying regulation (e.g. for charitable or not-for-profit organisations, or organisations below a certain size) or, conversely, should some industries be more closely regulated (e.g. those industries where 'regulatory capture' of government agencies and decision making is a risk)?

No, there should be no exceptions to lobbying regulation because who should decide what is 'good' or 'bad' causes?

Should lawyers and accountants who directly offer government relations services be included in the definition of lobbying?

Yes, if the work is 'lobbying', i.e. for the purpose of influencing policy or decision making.

Should lobbying disclosure requirements be heightened in the lead up to elections?

This may be artificial: most effective lobbying is not necessarily when elections are held. Other decision cycles should also be considered, especially including budget processes.

Should the conduct of lobbied parties be more closely regulated? For example, should there be lobbying disclosure requirements for ministerial staff or high level public servants?

The disclosure requirement should attach to the type of information a person has access to, rather than their specific role. If any public officer has a meeting with a registered lobbyist, that should be disclosed on a register published by their department.

Would the publishing of cabinet materials, ministerial diaries and other records of government decision making provide safeguards against the risks associated with lobbying?

At a minimum, cabinet agenda, ministerial diaries, and dates on which budget submissions to Treasury from Departments close must be published to provide transparency of the process of lobbying and government decision making. Cabinet agendas should be published as close as possible (ideally the day after) the meeting is held. Ministerial diaries should also be published as contemporaneously as possible. Cabinet discussions are confidential and must remain so, but what is on the agenda coupled with Ministerial diaries provides an important level of transparency while maintaining Cabinet confidentiality.

Should lobbied parties also be obliged to register lobbying interactions to allow for cross-referencing, such as is conducted by the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission?

This may be unworkable if the definition of lobbying is expanded and in-house and lawyers/accountants included.

Should government departments implement policies which prohibit undocumented or secret meetings?

Absolutely, without exception.

Should all activity directed towards influencing legislation (e.g. making, amending or retaining legislation) be publicly disclosed?

No, this would be covered by a broader definition of lobbyist.

Should the restrictions on lobbying activity be expanded to a wider range of people affiliated with political parties (e.g. former MPs, candidates, politicians from other jurisdictions) or those employed by political parties to work on election campaigns?

It is important to bear in mind the difference between relationships, skills obtained working in politics and access to confidential information. As above, the disclosure requirement should attach to the type of information a person has access to, rather than their specific role.

Would post-separation employment reporting requirements assist in ensuring compliance with lobbying restrictions?

This would be unnecessary if the definition of lobbying were expanded.