

New law set to clean up electoral funding rules

By **ROYCE MILLAR**
and **NICK MCKENZIE**
AGE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT



TOUGH new rules to clean up Australia's discredited system of election funding, spending and disclosure will be introduced before the next federal election.

Special Minister of State John Faulkner told *The Age* yesterday that an overhaul was long overdue. "The electoral reforms will definitely be in place before the next election," he said.

His comments came as senior politicians were embroiled in the latest in a series of revelations around political donations and lobbyists.

The minister would not comment on revelations about donations to the Liberal Party

from underworld-related figures, but he flatly rejected the suggestion by a colleague that major electoral reform be deferred until after the next election.

He also denied that a green paper on reform, scheduled for July but now not likely to be tabled until October, had been held up by internal party ructions and difficult negotiations with the Liberal Party.

Labor sources have told *The Age* that the party was in discussions with the Liberals in a

bid to win multi-party agreement and, therefore, safe passage for change through the Senate. A senior ALP figure said that if Labor did not secure bipartisan support, it could leave any legislation to the next Parliament in the hope of Labor/Green domination of the Senate.

But Senator Faulkner denied this. "There has been no negotiation over the green paper with either the Liberals or the Labor Party. After the green paper is issued, then there will be consul-

tation with a range of organisations on the shape of the new electoral laws." Senator Faulkner said the green paper — likely to canvass options including bans on donations and caps on campaign spending — had taken longer than expected because the Government wanted to ensure all possible ideas were raised.

While Senator Faulkner, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, and new Liberal leader Malcolm Turnbull have all made strong

comments about reining in election funding and donations, there is disagreement within and between the parties on the issue.

Some Liberals are wary of change that would reduce the traditional flow of corporate money into conservative coffers, and increase the disclosure of such money.

With ever greater commercial support on top of Labor's traditional union backing, some ALP heavies are also reluctant to forgo such lucrative relationships.

Nonetheless, as the scandal count rises for both sides of politics, an appetite for reform and cross-party co-operation appears to be growing. Increasingly, there seems to be interest in the tough Canadian electoral model with its strict limits on donations and spending.

Marise Payne, one of the NSW Liberal senators caught up in today's donation saga, said she backed an electoral rules review. Under current Australian rules, there is no cap on political

donations from individuals, companies or unions. Nor is there a limit on campaign spending. Only donations above \$10,900 must be declared to the Australian Electoral Commission.

Scott Morrison, the Liberal deputy chairman of the joint standing committee on electoral matters, said electoral reform "should be above politics".

"It's about protecting our democracy... we should all share this goal."

Deportation overruled after donation to Liberal Party

◀ From PAGE 1

statement also alleged that: "If (Francesco) is allowed to remain in Australia, he will continue to carry out acts of violence on behalf of an organised criminal syndicate."

However an Administrative Appeals Tribunal ruling in 2000 said that statement should not be given weight because of doubts about the reliability of unnamed informers who provided police with some of the information.

Antonio Madafferi was accused by coronial inquest witnesses of links to the murders of two identities at the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market in the 1990s. But there was no corroborating evidence produced at the inquests and he was not charged with any crime.

Another of the donors at the Liberal Party function was John Latorre who has had extensive business dealings with the Madafferi brothers as well as murdered Melbourne crime figure Frank Benvenuto.

At the time of the September 2004 function, Francesco Madafferi's supporters had mounted a strong campaign for Ms Vanstone to overturn Mr Ruddock's decision.

Madafferi, who claimed to be suffering from mental health problems, had sought the assistance of the United Nations Human Rights Commission to avoid deportation, arguing it

would harm his health and family.

In August 2004, the UN commission advised that Madafferi, who has a wife and four children, should not be deported and that he be released into home detention. The Howard government later rejected the UN's findings.

Mr Ruddock told *The Age* this week that he had believed Mr Madafferi should be deported because of his alleged serious criminal past. "Australia doesn't have to, in relation to non-citizens, keep them in our jurisdiction where there is a potential risk to the Australian community," he said.

He did not want to comment on Ms Vanstone's decision. "Amanda Vanstone, I assume, came to another view on the matter," he said.

Senator Payne said she was first approached about the Madafferi case by NSW businessmen Pat Sergi, Tony Labozzetta and Nick Scali at an Italian charity function in late 2003. Mr Scali's company has donated to both political parties while Pat Sergi is known for his Labor Party links and charity work.

Mr Sergi was named in the 1979 Woodward royal commission as a business associate of notorious criminal Robert Trimbole. Donation records show that Antonio Madafferi donated \$7500 to the Liberal Party at a charity function organised by Mr Sergi in June 2006.

Other supporters of Francesco Madafferi also donated thousands of dollars to the NSW Liberals between 2004 and 2006.

Senator Payne said she wrote to Ms Vanstone about the Madafferi case in late 2003 and raised it again with her office in late 2004.

She was concerned about the impact of detention or deportation on Mr Madafferi's family. "His children were just sounding desperate and his wife was a mess as far as I could tell," Senator Payne said.

She said she had been unaware that his brother and supporters had made donations to the Liberal Party. There was, she said, merit in calls to ban political donations.

Mr Broadbent said he looked into Madafferi's case after a request from a constituent. "I was told there was nothing that could be done to overturn the order to deport. That's what I reported back," he said.

"There can be no link between them attending Liberal Party functions and the visa decision being overturned. The only reason the visa was overturned was because his lawyers recognised that new legislation regarding long-term detainees may help his case," he said.

Mr Broadbent said he had attended numerous functions with figures from the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market, including some in which

THE VISA SAGA

ANTONIO MADAFFERI

- Alleged senior figure in Calabrian mafia and brother of Francesco Madafferi.
- Named in court in a 1998 police intelligence file as a man "involved in a substantial number of crimes, including murder, gunshot wounding and arson."
- Part of a campaign for his brother to not be deported, which included seeking help from business people and liberal politicians. Donated a total of \$22,800 to NSW Liberal party.
- Lives in Melbourne.

FRANCESCO MADAFFERI

- Arrives in Australia in 1989 and overstays his visa.
- Detained in 1996 as unlawful non-citizen. Authorities find he was allegedly involved in serious crimes in Italy.
- Due to be deported in 2003 after losing a nine-year court battle to remain in Australia, but saved by Immigration Minister's reprieve.
- Charged by Australian Federal Police in Melbourne last month with conspiracy to traffic drugs after the world's largest drug bust.
- Now on bail.

PHILIP RUDDOCK

- Immigration Minister orders Francesco Madafferi's deportation in 2000 on character grounds.
- Says decision is made because Madafferi allegedly committed serious crimes in Italy, and stayed in Australia illegally. "My view has always been that unless that there are extraordinary extenuating circumstances, particularly where the offences are very serious, Australia doesn't have to keep such people."

AMANDA VANSTONE

- Ruddock's successor grants Francesco Madafferi a permanent spouse visa in November 2005.
- Follows representations from federal Liberal politicians Bruce Billson, Marise Payne and Russell Broadbent about Francesco's Madafferi's fight to stay in Australia. Still unnamed NSW senior state Liberal politician also made representations to Vanstone. Payne and Billson say their representations were about the impact of detention and deportation on Madafferi's wife and children.

donations were made to the Liberal Party.

Former veterans affairs minister Bruce Billson said he was first contacted in 2003 by members of Francesco Madafferi's

extended family. Mr Billson, who also said he attended several Liberal Party and charity functions with Madafferi's supporters, told *The Age* he wrote a November 13, 2003, letter to Ms Vanstone in

which he acknowledged the character grounds on which Madafferi had been detained but highlighted the strain his indefinite detention had put on his young family.

"My actions were not arguing the case in favour of him individually but recognising the impact on his family."

Prominent Melbourne Italian-Australian businessman,

Joe Mirabella, who attended the September 2004 function, said similar functions were held with prominent Labor Party politicians including Premier John Brumby.

Marketing Manager

- » Domestic & International Travel
- » Lead a National Team



Oakley Inc. is a global sport and lifestyle brand driven to ignite the imagination through the fusion of art and science. Its local subsidiary, Oakley South Pacific, has experienced unprecedented growth across their two major categories; eyewear and apparel, and the scene is set for further growth and success.

Reporting to the Managing Director, you will lead Oakley's marketing function across Australia & NZ in order to drive revenue and profitability. Managing the full A&P spend and a national team of sports, retail, events and digital marketers, you will drive key programs such as greater presence and execution with retail partners, brand management and awesome sports marketing campaigns. Make no mistake, this is one of those dream roles that will see you travel the country and the globe regularly.

We are looking for an experienced Marketing Manager with a background in Consumer Durables (ideally fashion apparel or action sports), FMCG or Retail to live and breathe the Oakley brand proposition. Strong cultural alignment is critical. You have highly developed leadership skills, excellent commercial acumen and importantly, creative, abstract thinking when it comes to developing edgy marketing campaigns.

To discuss, please call Adam Kudas on (03) 8613 3599 or to apply, visit www.sixdegreesexecutive.com.au, select 'Job Search' quoting Ref. AK3435 or send your resume to adam@sixdegreesexecutive.com.au



'Best Executive Recruitment Company' Seek Awards
'Best Small Recruitment Firm' FEMA Awards

General Manager Business Development

- » Greenfields Opportunity - Logistics
- » Excellent Six Figure Package

Our client is an Australian owned logistics business, offering service expertise in the development and implementation of total supply chain solutions, handling over \$2 billion of product annually. With a sophisticated and international logistics infrastructure, they are seeking an experienced, driven and Commercial Manager to lead and grow the business development function.

You will be instrumental in developing a clear position and business proposition, focussed on increasing industry awareness and ensuring greater diversification of their customer base. Possessing a strong commercial awareness and understanding of new and emerging technologies, you will be part of developing new service capabilities to increase the current breadth of service offering. You will work with the CEO to lead and develop new strategic initiatives and a culture of continuous improvement in order to maintain a strong competitive position and high customer service ethos.

This is a rare opportunity to set the future platform for growth, within a company whose culture espouses quality, efficiency and sense of urgency for all internal and customer issues. As an experienced business development leader, you possess a proven ability to deliver results and an exceptional understanding of the supply chain process. Commercial, analytical, and possessing strong leadership capabilities, you will be able to demonstrate an ability to develop strong strategic partnerships with major international organisations. Experience within a 3PL or the FMCG/Retail sector will be highly regarded.

To discuss, please call Paul Hallam or Alexandra Matthews on (03) 8613 3500 or to apply, visit www.sixdegreesexecutive.com.au, select 'Job Search' quoting Ref. PH3433.



'Best Executive Recruitment Company' Seek Awards
'Best Small Recruitment Firm' FEMA Awards

OH WHAT A CAREER OPPORTUNITY!

TOYOTA

Toyota Australia is part of the global market leading organisation, which through its unique "Toyota Way" approach to people and process development, has become Australia's Sales and Export leader in Automotive. Due to internal movements, there are currently 2 outstanding opportunities based at Altona.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - ALTONA

This role will report to the Manager, Capability Development and will work within the Human Resources division. You will lead a small team in supporting the manufacturing business with the implementation and development of relevant Organisational Development solutions, building internal capability and assessing workplace competence. You'll be an Organisational Development professional with some OD and HR experience gained within an industrialised environment.

BUSINESS ANALYST - ALTONA

Reporting to the Cost Planning Manager and working within the Finance and Accounting division, this is a pivotal role in the development and measurement of cost and profit enhancement targets. You will support global market leadership, your communication and analytical skills will be stretched as you will work across local and overseas operating arms to report, develop and communicate efficiencies. You will be a Management Accountant or similar, ideally with some experience in manufacturing.

These are exciting opportunities working for one of the most diverse, vibrant and energetic companies in the world. Toyota will provide you with a unique career model, where you can develop in your existing profession and explore new paths. This will be coupled with a competitive salary package and car benefits.

To apply please visit the Slade Group website www.sladegroup.com.au/toyota Telephone enquiries can be made to Jason Burns or Stephen Pilcher on 03 9235 5100.



Intimate Knowledge - Invaluable Partners

Combine a Great Career with a Terrific Lifestyle

Located just 90 minutes from Melbourne, South Gippsland Shire is now easily accessible thanks to the Monash Freeway, Eastlink and the Pakenham Bypass. The Shire Office is located in Leongatha and with a population of 27,000 takes in numerous major townships and one of Australia's most popular tourist destinations, Wilson's Promontory. With opportunities to live on the coast, in the character filled towns and villages or the rural heartland, the Shire has been independently reviewed as one of the most liveable regions in Australia. Council has recognised the need to increase its management team which together with external promotions has provided an opportunity to undertake an organisational restructure thus Council is seeking high achieving and team orientated leaders to join this dynamic new team. Assistance will be offered to successful candidates wishing to relocate.

Director Corporate & Community Services

- > Diversify your Career

This broad Director role reports to the CEO and will lead the Corporate and Community Services Division including Managers in Finance, Information Services and Community Services. You will oversee the development of a number of community service strategies ensuring that the Council is well positioned to deliver on long term community needs. You will review the structure of the budgets and accounts to ensure the organisation is delivering best value and that there is strong accountability around expenditure. Further, you will oversee the delivery of a new document management system.

You are a leader with experience in either corporate or community services. You are well regarded for your ability to develop a strong customer service and continuous improvement ethos within your team. Reference Number - 2007470

Director Sustainability

- > Shape the Shire

Reporting to the CEO, this newly created role will lead Managers in the areas of Social & Economic Development, Strategic & Statutory Planning and Environment. You will work with the planning team to improve planning systems, and develop policy for the MSS. In addition there is a terrific opportunity to attract investment through the promotion of the Shire for business and tourism purposes. Further, this role will work across Council as the "sustainability champion" to ensure all of Councils business is reviewed to ensure the Shires practices and operations are environmentally sustainable.

You are a well regarded leader with an ability to bring together the Directorate roles and a particular understanding of land use planning gained from State or Local Government. Reference Number - 2007472

Director Infrastructure

- > Strategic Asset Leadership

Reporting directly to the CEO, this position will lead two managers in the areas of Infrastructure Maintenance and Engineering together with direct reports in asset management. Overseeing the implementation and maintenance of a new asset management system you will deliver robust plans for each asset class and their integration.

You are experienced in the management of a range of contracts and have a strong understanding of engineering or asset management. Further you understand risk management and OHS and have a strong customer service ethos. Having managed the delivery of projects you have also gained experience in budget management. You are a team player and enjoy working with diverse stakeholders and staff. Reference Number - 2007471

Manager Engineering

- > Deliver the Program

Reporting to the Director Infrastructure, this role will lead an engineering team to deliver a \$7.5M Capital Works program together with a number of operational programs. This key position will work across the organisation to develop a strategic approach to the development of Councils Assets and will redefine the way they are delivered. Other key responsibilities include leadership of Councils fleet, Design, Community Construction and Building Operations.

You are a civil engineer or project manager, ready to take the next step in your leadership career. You have gained strong stakeholder management and community engagement experience and your engaging interpersonal style enables you to lead a diverse group of staff. Reference Number - 2007468

Manager Environment

- > Community Wellbeing

This newly created role brings together a diverse group of functions across Council and presents an opportunity to develop the team's identity. Overseeing environmental planning, environmental health, animal management, fire prevention, local laws and traffic control, this role plays a critical role in the safety and general wellbeing of the community. You will develop a culture centred on advocacy, education and mediation supported by its use of enforcement. This is an outstanding opportunity to be the interface between Council and the community and sharpen your judgement when dealing with difficult issues.

You have gained leadership experience from any number of community interfacing backgrounds such as state or local government, or the non-profit sector and you have demonstrated a well developed capacity to deal with complex issues. Reference Number - 2007473