

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 21 November 2024 10:04 PM
To: FAD
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Notification of written particulars received - Australia's Voice [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Australia's Voice response to public objection letter AEC.pdf

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Dear AEC,

Please see attached Australia's Voice's response to the objection.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 6:40 AM FAD <FAD@aec.gov.au> wrote:

Dear Senator

Please find attached correspondence from the Australian Electoral Commission of written particulars received regarding the application for registration for Australia's Voice.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Party Registration Team

Party Registration and Redistribution | Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

T: (02) 6271 4552



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

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19 November 2024

Assistant Commissioner
Funding and Disclosure
Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Assistant Commissioner,

I write as the Registered Officer of Australia's Voice to address the objection submitted on 22 October 2024 regarding the registration of Australia's Voice as a political party under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (the Act).

The objection outlines three reasons the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) should reject the application of Australia's Voice. All these objections are without merit.

Membership Eligibility (Section 123 of the Act)

The objection suggests that Australia's Voice does not meet the requirement of 1,500 eligible members as outlined in Section 123 of the Act. This argument is invalid because:

- Australia's Voice has applied for registration as a parliamentary political party, having been founded by myself as a sitting Senator.
- Under Section 123(1)(a) of the Act, parliamentary parties are exempt from the requirement to demonstrate a membership base of at least 1,500 enrolled voters
- As it has applied as a parliamentary party, Australia's Voice is eligible for registration irrespective of membership numbers.

Compliance with Procedural Requirements (Section 126 of the Act)

The objection broadly alleges non-compliance with procedural requirements under Section 126. The objection's lack of detail or evidence makes this point speculative and unsubstantiated. In response:

- It is up to the AEC to rule whether an application is non-compliant with procedural requirements under Section 126 during the standard review process.
- On 18 October 2024, Australia's Voice received a letter from Joanne Reid, Assistant Commissioner and Delegate of the Electoral Commission, confirming that the AEC had completed its initial review of the application and approved the publication of a notice regarding the application.
- The AEC did not inform Australia's Voice of any compliance issues during the standard review phase of the application process.



www.australiasvoice.com.au





Party Name and Prohibited Terms (Section 129 of the Act)

The objection argues that the name 'Australia's Voice' may mislead voters or cause confusion "given its similarity to terms widely used in current public discourse". However, this claim misunderstands the provisions of Section 129(2) of the Act;

- A party name is in breach of Section 129(2) if it is likely to be confused with, or mistaken for, the name of a **recognised political party**.
- There is no other recognised political party with the same or a similar name to 'Australia's Voice' that would cause confusion.
- Section 129(2) does not take into account the use of the words in a party's name within public discourse when considering whether a party name is misleading or could cause confusion.

Furthermore, numerous political parties use terms common in everyday public discourse—such as "Labor" and "labour" or "Liberal" and "liberal"—without issue.

The objection fails to demonstrate any factual basis for confusion or similarity with a recognised political party. Australia's Voice has chosen a name that reflects its mission without infringing on the rights or identity of any other registered political entity.

All of the objections listed fail to provide any substantive evidence for any of its claims and we trust the AEC will reject this objection.

Australia's Voice is willing to provide further clarification or documentation if required.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Senator Fatima Payman
Registered Officer
Australia's Voice

