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Law Reform Committee



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Mr John Scheffer MLC
Chair
Law Reform Committee
Parliament of Victoria
Spring St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 17 April 2009 inviting submissions to the Law Reform Committee's review of the *Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978* (the Act).

As I have generally been in support of the intent of the Act, I have little comment on most provisions. I note, however, one area where you are seeking member's views relates to the extent to which members should have to disclose interests held by their families and how to balance public interest in relation to transparency with individual rights to privacy.

My concern, and I am aware it is shared by others, is in relation to the disclosure of interests held by family members. Individual rights to privacy of those not elected to the Parliament and who wish not to disclose personal information, and in my case I certainly speak for my wife, should be given greater consideration. In saying that, I do not believe that family members should shield their relatives' interests. However, the current scrutiny of family members is in my opinion unreasonable and denies them their right to privacy.

Thank you again for the opportunity of making a submission to the review of the Act.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

DAVID KOCH MLC
Member for Western Victoria
Opposition Whip (Council)
Deputy Chair, Parliamentary Road Safety Committee