

Australian Capital Territory

Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Amendment Act 2026

A2026-18

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Australian Capital Territory

Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Amendment Act 2026

A2026-18

An Act to amend the *Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009*

The Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enacts as follows:

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1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Amendment Act 2026*.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on a day fixed by the Minister by written notice.

Note 1 The naming and commencement provisions automatically commence on the notification day (see Legislation Act, s 75 (1)).

Note 2 A single day or time may be fixed, or different days or times may be fixed, for the commencement of different provisions (see Legislation Act, s 77 (1)).

Note 3 If a provision has not commenced within 6 months beginning on the notification day, it automatically commences on the first day after that period (see Legislation Act, s 79).

3 Legislation amended

This Act amends the *Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009*.

4 Section 11

substitute

11 What is a *party political purpose*?

(1) For this Act, something has a ***party political purpose*** if—

(a) it is designed to promote the policies, past performance, achievements or intentions of a program or the government with a view to enhancing a political party's reputation rather than informing the public; or

(b) it depicts, names or otherwise identifies a member of the Legislative Assembly, or a candidate or prospective candidate for an election; or

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(c) it names or otherwise identifies a registered party or uses the party's brand or something resembling the brand.

(2) However, something does not have a ***party political purpose*** only because of subsection (1) (b) or (c) if it is—

(a) required to be done under a law applying in the ACT; or

(b) in a report or other document prepared for presentation to the Legislative Assembly.

(3) In this section:

candidate means a person declared to be a candidate under the *Electoral Act 1992*, section 109.

election—see the *Electoral Act 1992*, dictionary.

prospective candidate—see the *Electoral Act 1992*, section 198.

5 Section 17 (3) (e)

omit

information in a government campaign must not be directed at promoting the government or party political interests

substitute

a government campaign must not have a party political purpose or include information directed at promoting the government

6 Section 17 (3) (e), examples heading

substitute

Examples—party political purposes or promoting the government

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7 Section 17 (3) (e), example 1

substitute

1 mentioning the party in government or naming or including an image of the party leader

8 Section 18 heading

substitute

18 Government campaigns before Territory and Commonwealth elections restricted

9 New section 18 (1A)

insert

(1A) A government agency must not begin or continue a government campaign during a Commonwealth pre-election period if—

(a) the campaign—

(i) is about a program, policy or matter that is wholly or partly funded by the Commonwealth; and

(ii) mentions the Commonwealth funding; or

(b) the campaign depicts, names or otherwise identifies—

(i) a Senator or member of the House of Representatives; or

(ii) a candidate or prospective candidate for election as a Senator or member of the House of Representatives.

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10 New section 18 (3)

before the notes, insert

(3) In this section:

Commonwealth pre-election period means a period—

(a) beginning at the time a writ is issued for—

(i) an election of Senators for the ACT; or

(ii) a general election of members of the House of Representatives; or

(iii) an election of a member of the House of Representatives for a Division in the ACT; and

(b) ending at the end of the polling day for the election.

Division—see the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cwlth), section 4 (1).

11 Reviewer to prepare report New section 19 (1) (a) (iii)

insert

(iii) the period beginning on the day after the pre-election period and ending on 31 December in the year; and

12 Dictionary, definition of *party political*

omit

13 Dictionary, new definitions

insert

party political purpose—see section 11.

registered party—see the *Electoral Act 1992*, dictionary.

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Endnotes

1 Presentation speech

Presentation speech made in the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2025.

2 Notification

Notified under the Legislation Act on 9 November 2026.

3 Republications of amended laws

For the latest republication of amended laws, see www.legislation.act.gov.au.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Amendment Bill 2026, which originated in the Legislative Assembly as the Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Amendment Bill 2025 and was passed by the Assembly on 21 October 2026.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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