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The Accountability Round Table is disappointed that both major parties have failed to embrace the opportunity for key reforms on political accountability in the current election campaign.

The chair of ART, Mr Tim Smith QC, said today.

“Victoria has been lagging for some years on key issues such as an anti-corruption commission with adequate powers to allow it to do its job properly, on freedom of information, and on political funding and donations to parties. The election campaign is an ideal time for parties to commit to best practice in these areas.”

ART asked each party to give its views on these issues. “Only the Greens have embraced the need for essential reforms, and we are heartened by that,” Mr Smith said.

“As things stand, Victoria’s IBAC’s capacity to investigate possible corrupt conduct falls well short of that in other State bodies. Queensland continues to set the standard on freedom of information and NSW on the regulation and transparency of political donations. Recent scandals particularly in NSW, highlight the need for urgent reform of donations to political parties to minimise corruption.”

“Yet we are not seeing sufficient commitment by either party to these important reforms.”

ART’s questions, and the responses of the three parties, are set out in the attached table. More details are available on ART’s website, www.accountabilityrt.org.