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Liberals May Leave First Sitting Day Early for Party Fundraiser

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As Australia's 48th Parliament meets on 22 July 2025, the Liberal Party of Australia (LP) is under increased scrutiny following its recent election defeat. Opposition Leader Sussan Ley and senior Liberals face pressure to prioritise parliamentary duties while the Australian Labor Party (ALP) begins introducing key legislative reforms, including its Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) debt relief bill.

The ALP's strong electoral mandate has put the Liberal opposition on the back foot, increasing public and media attention on how the party balances fundraising efforts with parliamentary responsibilities. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) reported the Liberal Party raised about \$73 million in 2023–24, including significant corporate donations. There are ongoing calls for greater transparency, as nearly 45% of donations remain undisclosed.

Ley defended the party's engagement with supporters as vital to rebuilding after the election loss, saying it is important to "fight for struggling Australians." However, critics argue the opposition must show a stronger commitment to parliamentary work rather than focusing on party fundraising. Independent MP Zoe Daniel said, "Australians expect their representatives to prioritise the chamber."

As the LP navigates its role in opposition, balancing fundraising with effective parliamentary representation will be critical to restoring public trust.