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Last Update: Thursday, May 24, 2007. 2:22pm (AEST)

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Brethren-linked company referred to AFP


A company with reported links to the Christian sect the Exclusive Brethren is being investigated by the Australian Federal Police over an advertising campaign that promoted John Howard at the last federal election.

A Senate hearing has been told the company Willmac Enterprises was set up a week before the 2004 election and spent nearly \$400,000 on pro-Government advertisements.

The hearing was told the company was started by a member of the Exclusive Brethren and some of the advertisements were authorised by the brother of the group's leader.

Kevin Bodel from the Australian Electoral Commission says the matter is now in the hands of the police.

"We pursued a line of inquiry and reached a point where we believed it would be better handled by the AFP and at that point we referred the matter on having collected a degree of evidence," Mr Bodel said.


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