

Electoral Commissioner

EC19-000002

Ms Ann Palmer
Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Palmer

Correction: Remote area mobile polling and NEEC visitation

I would like to correct information provided to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee at the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 22 October 2019.

Remote area mobile polling

Senator Farrell asked about remote area electoral services during the 2019 federal election:

Senator Farrell: The AEC is responsible for polling services. How many remote polling places were there in the Northern Territory during the election?

Mr Rogers: We do have that figure. Here we go: in 2019, there were 42 remote area mobile teams, 381 localities were visited and 23,503 ordinary votes were taken. It was very similar to the service offering we had in 2016.

The figures I provided were national figures. The figures for the Northern Territory are as follows:

- 21 remote area mobile teams
- 207 locations were visited
- 16,626 ordinary votes were taken.

National Electoral Education Centre (NEEC) visitation

Senator Waters asked about the AEC's educative role:

Senator Waters: Leading on from that, to talk about your educative role, what resources has the AEC dedicated in the past—and what will you dedicate going forward—to educating people about how to vote correctly, in particular how to vote preferentially. As you rightly point out, it's often different at different levels of government, and people can be confused about that. What have you done about that in the past, and what are you proposing to do going forward?

Mr Rogers: The first thing will sound disconnected, but it's not. In Canberra we run the Electoral Education Centre. Every year in Canberra close to 100,000 year 9 and year 10 students, normally, go through that centre.

The figure of 100,000 that I provided was a total of all visitors—not limited to year 9 and 10 students. I would appreciate you drawing these matters to the Committee's attention.

Yours sincerely

Tom Rogers

4 November 2019