



Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters launches two inquiries

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters will conduct two new inquiries, Committee Chair Tony Smith MP announced today.

The first inquiry is on the delivery of electoral education. The Committee will conduct its investigation focussing on the following terms of reference:

- electoral education services provided to schools, students and teachers
- the teaching methodology of the national Civics and Citizenship Curriculum; and
- evolving technology and new platforms for delivering electoral education.

The focus of the electoral education inquiry will include:

- what is being taught to students when they visit Parliament House and Canberra?
- what are the barriers preventing some schools from travelling to Canberra and what can be done about it?
- what resources and training are the teachers provided with to deliver effective electoral education?
- what are the electoral commissions delivering in terms of electoral education?
- how can the delivery of electoral education be improved?

The second inquiry is focussed on campaigning activities and conduct at polling places.

The Committee will inquire into and report on current rules and practices in relation to campaign activities in the vicinity of polling places, with particular reference to:

- the distribution of how-to-vote cards;
- campaigning by organisations other than political parties at polling places;
- allegations in relation to the conduct of, and material disseminated by, campaigners at state and federal elections in the vicinity of polling places intended or likely to mislead or intimidate electors; and
- any other related matter.

Submissions to the Committee for both inquiries are now invited. The closing date for submissions is **Friday 17 July 2015**. Public hearings will be scheduled and advertised in the near future.

Media inquiries: contact Andrew Hallam on 0404 043 764 (*Office of Tony Smith MP*).

For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2374, email em@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>