



Electoral Commissioner to appear at public hearing on the 2007 election

The Australian Electoral Commissioner will appear before parliament's Electoral Matters Committee at a public hearing tomorrow, Tuesday 17 March 2009 as part of the committee's inquiry into the 2007 Federal election.

It will be the first opportunity for the committee to question recently appointed Electoral Commissioner, Ed Killesteyn.

The Australian Electoral Commission has suggested that the committee consider a number of changes to electoral law and administration including:

- Treating 'home' division pre-poll votes as ordinary votes to allow these votes to be counted on election night;
- Using the date of the witness' signature on a postal voting certificate to determine the validity of a postal vote rather than rely on postmarking;
- Retaining proof of identity for first time enrollees only and the repeal of a requirement for provisional voters to produce identity documents; and
- Providing for online update of enrolment details by electors whose identities have been verified by the proof of identity process.

"This hearing provides an opportunity for the committee to more closely examine proposals aimed at making the electoral process more accessible for electors" committee chair Daryl Melham (Member for Banks, NSW) said.

Public Hearing Details

Committee:	Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Venue	Committee Room 2S3 Parliament House, Canberra
Date:	Tuesday, 17 March 2009
Time:	12.05pm to 1.45pm
Webcast:	The hearing will be webcast live on http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/

The hearing will be broadcast on the internal Parliament House network (HMS 11).

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Daryl Melham, on (02) 6277 2054 (Parliament House Office).

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2374, email jscem@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>