

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS**

Public hearing: Inquiry into the 2007 election

*Chair: Daryl Melham**Deputy Chair: Scott Morrison*

Public hearing in Brisbane to inquire into the 2007 federal election

The Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland will appear before federal parliament's Electoral Matters Committee at a public hearing in Brisbane on Wednesday 6 August 2008 as part of its inquiry into the conduct of the 2007 election.

"The 2007 Federal election in Queensland saw a significant improvement by the Australian Electoral Commission in handling postal votes compared to the last election," Committee Chair Daryl Melham said.

Almost 2.5 million Queenslanders exercised their vote at the 2007 federal election. Voters in Queensland were more likely to take advantage of 'early voting' arrangements than other Australians, with more than 171,000 Queenslanders casting pre-poll votes and 180,000 casting postal votes.

"The Committee is interested in hearing from the Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland about the conduct of the federal election, including efforts in Queensland to get people onto the electoral roll in the lead up to the election".

The venue for the hearings is the Commonwealth Offices, Conference Room, Level 36, Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle St Brisbane.

The public hearing commences at 9.30am and will be webcast (audio only) live on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

Hearing program for 6 August

Commonwealth Offices, Level 36, Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane

- 9:30am Colin Hughes;
- 10:30am Darrell Main;
- 11:15am Australian Electoral Officer (State Manager) Queensland;
- 12:00pm David Kerslake — Queensland State Electoral Commissioner;
- 12.30pm Hon Mike Reynolds, Member for Townsville.

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>