

***Final public hearing: Canberra 13 August 2007***

Future of National Tally Room up for discussion

Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee will hold a final public hearing to consider the future of the National Tally Room on Monday with representatives from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). The hearing is part of the Committee's inquiry into certain aspects of the administration of the AEC.

Earlier this year, Australian Electoral Commissioner, Mr Ian Campbell, announced that the AEC would proceed with the staging of a National Tally Room in Canberra as part of the AEC's election services at the 2007 federal election.

Following this announcement, the Special Minister of State, the Hon Gary Nairn MP, requested that the committee consider whether the National Tally Room should be retained beyond the 2007 federal election.

Maintaining the National Tally Room presents a significant logistical exercise. The AEC reported that organising the tally room for the 2004 federal election cost approximately \$650,000.

A potential alternative to the National Tally Room is the AEC's Virtual Tally Room. On Election night 2004, the Virtual Tally Room website received over 13.5 million hits, provided 3.2 million page views and handled more than 42,000 unique visitors.

Monday's hearing will be televised on HMS 11 and webcast online at:
<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

Public Hearing Details:

Monday 13 August 2007
Committee Room 2S3
Parliament House, Canberra

Program:

9:30am Australian Electoral Commission
11:00am Adjourn

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair, Mrs Sophie Mirabella MP on (02) 6277 2301 (Parliament House).

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2022, email jscem@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/>