



Electoral system checkup— Inquiry into the 2010 federal election

Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee has commenced an inquiry into the conduct of the 2010 federal election.

“Australia’s electoral system ranks among the world’s best. However, there is always room for improvement. The 2010 federal election has made apparent a number of issues that need examination, including existing provisions that need further scrutiny because of their capacity to disenfranchise legitimate voters,” said Committee Chair Daryl Melham.

“The practice of reviewing each federal election started in 1983 and provides Australians with an important opportunity to express their views and involve themselves in the scrutiny and improvement of our electoral system,” said Mr Melham.

It is anticipated that this will be a robust inquiry into various aspects of the 2010 federal election. Some issues that have already emerged include increases in informal voting and court findings in the cases of *Getup Ltd v Electoral Commissioner* [2010] FCA 869 and *Rowe & ANOR v Electoral Commissioner & ANOR* (HCA), respectively, extending the close of rolls period back to seven days and electronic enrolment options.

The Committee will also examine queuing times at polling booths, postal and early voting, and provisional voting.

Members of the public and interested groups are invited to make submissions in writing to the Committee until Wednesday, 16 February 2011.

For more information and to follow the progress of the inquiry visit the Committee’s webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>.

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

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2374 or jscem@aph.gov.au.