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## **Australian Privacy Foundation to speak on Electoral maintaining address bill**

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) will appear before the Electoral Matters Committee on Wednesday, 15 February 2012, in Canberra for the inquiry into the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Maintaining Address) Bill 2011 (the Bill).

The main aim of the Bill is to enable the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to directly update an elector's enrolled address following the receipt and analysis of reliable and current data sources. The Electoral Commissioner will be required to inform an elector when the AEC proposes to update the elector's address details and again once the update has occurred.

This Bill will not provide the capacity to directly enrol electors. Persons who are not on the roll will still need to enrol by completing and submitting an enrolment form to the AEC.

Submissions from the AEC and the Democratic Audit of Australia express support for the changes proposed in the Bill. However, the APF has made a submission to the inquiry raising concerns about the Bill. The organisation described the move as a change in the basis of enrolment, from "opt-in" to "opt-out", and argued that "the existing basis of enrolment, only on the basis of a positive action by an eligible voter, should not be abandoned lightly".

"It is useful for the committee to hear a cross-section of views on the changes proposed in this Bill, to help ensure that changes to enrolment practices are appropriate," said Committee Chair Daryl Melham.

**Public Hearing program**  
**Wednesday, 15 February 2012**  
**Committee Room 1R2**  
**Parliament House, Canberra**

9.30 am      Australian Privacy Foundation

10.30 am      Finish

The hearing will be audio webcast live: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

For submissions, 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 office) or 02 9774 2111 (Electoral office).

**For general information:** Contact the secretariat on 02 6277 2374 or [jscem@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscem@aph.gov.au).