



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS

Public hearing: Inquiry into the 2007 election

Chair: Daryl Melham

Deputy Chair: Scott Morrison

Future of electronic voting at Federal elections to be considered

The outcomes of the electronic voting trials at the 2007 Federal election, conducted for people who are blind or have low vision and also for selected Australian Defence Force personnel serving overseas, will be one of the main issues to be examined by Federal parliament's Electoral Matters Committee at a public hearing on Friday 17 October.

The Chair of the committee, Daryl Melham, said "Legislation supporting these two trials has lapsed and it is necessary to look closely at the relative costs and benefits before making a decision on what form they take in the future".

A submission by the Australian Electoral Commission revealed that the combined cost of the electronic voting trials was approximately \$4 million. A total of 850 votes were cast in the trial for people who are blind or have low vision and 1,511 votes were cast by participating defence force personnel.

The hearing will also provide the opportunity for the committee to more closely examine the Australian Electoral Commission's conduct of the 2007 election. The hearing is open to the public.

Public hearing program:

Friday 17 October 2008 – Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

- 10.15 am Australian Electoral Commission
- 11.45 am Australian Electoral Officer (State Manager) for the Northern Territory
- 12.30 pm Department of Defence
- 1.15 pm Software Improvements
- 1.45 pm Adjourn

The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service, radio and webcast live on the Parliament House website at:

<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

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>