

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS**

Public hearing: Inquiry into the 2007 election

*Chair: Daryl Melham
Deputy Chair: Scott Morrison*

Australian Electoral Commission to appear at public hearing on 2007 election

The Australian Electoral Commission will appear before the Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee this Friday 27 June 2008. This is the first public hearing for the committee's inquiry into the conduct of the 2007 election and related matters.

The 2007 federal election, which cost almost \$100 million to conduct, saw almost 10.5 million people vote at 7,723 polling places across the country. A further 2.5 million people took the opportunity to cast pre poll, postal or absentee votes.

The Chair of the Committee, Daryl Melham, said "The committee's hearing with the Australian Electoral Commission provides an opportunity to look closely at the conduct of the election and identify areas where our electoral system can be improved".

Submissions to the inquiry have highlighted a number of issues relating to the election and the electoral system including:

- informal voting
- the success of electronic voting trials for the vision impaired and overseas defence force personnel
- the impact of recent changes to electoral laws on enrolment and provisional voting
- changes to political finance and disclosure arrangements.

"It is sometimes too easy to take our democracy for granted", Daryl Melham said. "We need to ensure that our electoral system moves with the times so that the acts of enrolling to vote and voting are as accessible as possible and that public confidence in the electoral system is maintained."

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>