

**Electoral Commissioner**

Our Ref: JSCEM 08/409-5

Mr Daryl Melham MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Melham

I am writing in response to allegations made by the Hon. Fran Bailey MP regarding multiple voting under the name of Reverend Ivor Jones.

Appearing as a witness at the JSCEM public hearing on 25 November 2008, the Hon. Fran Bailey MP, Member for McEwen, made allegations that a Reverend Ivor Jones had been recorded as voting five times in the electorate of McEwen at the 2007 federal election. AEC records indicate that no electors in the Division of McEwen voted more than twice. The AEC can confirm that a letter was sent to Reverend Jones indicating that according to AEC records, it appeared he may have voted twice, and seeking his clarification on the matter. Reverend Jones' response made it clear that he had voted only once, through an early declaration vote.

At around the same time, the AEC sent a letter to the elector appearing immediately above Reverend Jones on the certified list, indicating that according to AEC records that elector had not voted, and seeking clarification on the matter. The response from the elector indicated that the person had cast a vote at the same polling booth where AEC records indicated Reverend Jones had voted. The responses of both Reverend Jones and the elector appearing immediately above Reverend Jones on the certified list led the Divisional Returning Officer for McEwen to conclude that a polling official error had occurred. No further action was taken in either case.

Yours sincerely

Ed Killesteyn
Electoral Commissioner

7 January 2009