

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS**

Public hearing: Inquiry into the 2007 election

*Chair: Daryl Melham
Deputy Chair: Scott Morrison*

Public hearings in Sydney to inquire into the 2007 federal election

Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee will be holding public hearings in Sydney on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 July 2008 as part of its inquiry into the conduct of the 2007 election.

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 plans to visit most capital cities and several regional centres around the country to hear people's concerns with a view to identifying how 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 concerns
- 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
- concerns over recent changes to political finance and disclosure arrangements.

The venue for the hearings is the Commonwealth Offices, Conference Room A, Level 8, 70 Philip Street, Sydney. Those appearing include the ABC's election analyst Antony Green; Vision Australia; GetUp! and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commissioner, among others.

The public hearings commence at 9am and will be webcast (audio only) live on <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>