



**Electoral Commissioner**



Mr Kai Swoboda  
Inquiry Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Swoboda

I refer to the Hon. Bruce Scott MP's request at the public hearings of 27 June 2008, 6 August 2008 and 27 September 2008 for information regarding the number of postal votes that were rejected by reason of being postmarked after polling day.

At the hearing of 6 August 2008, the AEC State Manager for Queensland, Ms Anne Bright, indicated the AEC would be able to provide the information as requested. Whilst the AEC is unable to provide the information exactly as requested, it is able to provide the aggregated total of postal votes rejected for the following reasons relating to being cast or received late:

- the voter declaration was signed after polling day (cast late);
- the envelope was received 13 days after polling day (received late);

These data have been compiled by division and are set out in the enclosed Table 1. Postal votes rejected because the envelope was postmarked after polling day will, for the most part, be included in the total for postal votes rejected because the voter declaration was signed after polling day (i.e. votes cast late).

The AEC also wishes to provide clarification regarding the information it has previously provided to the JSCEM in response to Mr Scott's enquiries. The then Commissioner, Mr Ian Campbell, advised the JSCEM on 1 September 2008 that 4,729 postal votes were rejected because the voter declaration was signed after polling day or the envelopes were postmarked after polling day. In addition, Mr Campbell noted that 2,725 postal votes were rejected on the grounds that they were not received within the proscribed period (13 days) after polling day. These figures and their total (7,454) contrast with the totals provided in Table 1. The figures provided by Mr Campbell relate to rejected postal votes which resulted in an advice being sent to the voter from a central mailhouse.

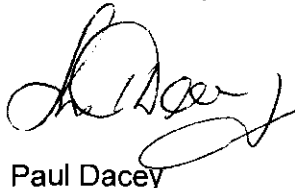
As the JSCEM is no doubt aware, all declaration voters whose votes are rejected are sent an advice from the AEC. Prior to this a 'culling' process is undertaken to

remove those electors who have died since casting their vote and those who are silent electors. All advices sent to silent electors are sent from each divisional office.

For the 2007 election, 43 deceased electors and 544 silent electors were removed from the total of 8,041 rejected postal votes. The balance of 7,454 electors were sent letters from a mailhouse company; 4,729 letters advised electors their vote had been cast late and 2,725 letters advised electors their vote had been received late. It is these latter figures which were provided to JSCEM on 1 September 2008. The enclosed Table 2 provides a breakdown by division of the voter advices sent, and the reason and number of rejected postal voters excluded from this total.

I trust this information addresses the matters raised to date by Mr Scott relating to the rejection of postal votes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dacey', written in a cursive style.

Paul Dacey

16 October 2008

**Table 1 – Rejected postal votes cast or received late by division**

	Votes cast late	Votes received late	Grand Total
<b>ACT</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>51</b>
CANBERRA	21	12	33
FRASER	18	0	18
<b>NSW</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>2,392</b>
BANKS	55	0	55
BARTON	0	47	47
BENNELONG	51	0	51
BEROWRA	52	0	52
BLAXLAND	0	66	66
BRADFIELD	59	1	60
CALARE	58	0	58
CHARLTON	54	7	61
CHIFLEY	2	37	39
COOK	71	1	72
COWPER	23	1	24
CUNNINGHAM	19	0	19
DOBELL	0	57	57
EDEN-MONARO	1	37	38
FARRER	75	0	75
FOWLER	35	3	38
GILMORE	38	0	38
GRAYNDLER	10	45	55
GREENWAY	30	0	30
HUGHES	0	44	44
HUME	5	9	14
HUNTER	39	9	48
KINGSFORD SMITH	8	63	71
LINDSAY	24	21	45
LOWE	54	25	79
LYNE	19	0	19
MACARTHUR	34	0	34
MACKELLAR	43	2	45
MACQUARIE	24	60	84
MITCHELL	2	30	32
NEW ENGLAND	62	0	62
NEWCASTLE	82	0	82
NORTH SYDNEY	67	0	67
PAGE	56	0	56

PARKES	30	4	34
PARRAMATTA	46	0	46
PATERSON	35	0	35
PROSPECT	24	0	24
REID	29	0	29
RICHMOND	49	2	51
RIVERINA	36	0	36
ROBERTSON	68	1	69
SHORTLAND	59	4	63
SYDNEY	11	79	90
THROSBY	2	15	17
WATSON	86	0	86
WENTWORTH	5	58	63
WERRIWA	0	32	32
<b>NT</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>81</b>
LINGIARI	34	6	40
SOLOMON	28	13	41
<b>QLD</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>1,753</b>
BLAIR	7	66	73
BONNER	5	71	76
BOWMAN	67	0	67
BRISBANE	11	41	52
CAPRICORNIA	88		88
DAWSON	8	73	81
DICKSON	42	0	42
FADDEN	54	0	54
FAIRFAX	59	5	64
FISHER	45	0	45
FLYNN	2	144	146
FORDE	51	0	51
GRIFFITH	2	85	87
GROOM	44	1	45
HERBERT	88	0	88
HINKLER	35	0	35
KENNEDY	0	132	132
LEICHHARDT	43	0	43
LILLEY	7	0	7
LONGMAN	44	1	45
MARANOA	0	36	36
MCPHERSON	58	0	58
MONCRIEFF	51	1	52
MORETON	2	29	31

OXLEY	9	47	56
PETRIE	53	0	53
RANKIN	39	0	39
RYAN	11	50	61
WIDE BAY	27	19	46
<b>SA</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>661</b>
ADELAIDE	0	66	66
BARKER	69	0	69
BOOTHBY	5	48	53
GREY	138	0	138
HINDMARSH	39	24	63
KINGSTON	33	23	56
MAKIN	52	4	56
MAYO	50	0	50
PORT ADELAIDE	0	19	19
STURT	31	1	32
WAKEFIELD	0	59	59
<b>TAS</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>110</b>
BASS	27	1	28
BRADDON	11	1	12
DENISON	16	7	23
FRANKLIN	15	4	19
LYONS	28	0	28
<b>VIC</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1,979</b>
ASTON	3	29	32
BALLARAT	62	0	62
BATMAN	34	0	34
BENDIGO	47	0	47
BRUCE	14	0	14
CALWELL	27	10	37
CASEY	37	0	37
CHISHOLM	42	0	42
CORANGAMITE	47	3	50
CORIO	36	10	46
DEAKIN	37	0	37
DUNKLEY	35	0	35
FLINDERS	23	5	28
GELLIBRAND	0	102	102
GIPPSLAND	51	1	52
GOLDSTEIN	187	2	189
GORTON	2	0	2
HIGGINS	0	9	9

HOLT	33	38	71
HOTHAM	62	3	65
INDI	2	65	67
ISAACS	115	3	118
JAGAJAGA	21	8	29
KOONYONG	6	3	9
LA TROBE	0	57	57
LALOR	22	0	22
MALLEE	43	0	43
MARIBYRNONG	0	30	30
MCEWEN	98	0	98
MCMILLAN	74	2	76
MELBOURNE	50	0	50
MELBOURNE PORTS	172	8	180
MENZIES	34	0	34
MURRAY	49	2	51
SCULLIN	23	0	23
WANNON	0	53	53
WILLS	2	46	48
<b>WA</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>1,014</b>
BRAND	2	108	110
CANNING	80	4	84
COWAN	43	1	44
CURTIN	49	22	71
FORREST	31	0	31
FREMANTLE	6	63	69
HASLUCK	19	26	45
KALGOORLIE	0	83	83
MOORE	50	0	50
O'CONNOR	2	109	111
PEARCE	4	76	80
PERTH	0	85	85
STIRLING	56	4	60
SWAN	50	6	56
TANGNEY	32	3	35
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,113</b>	<b>2,928</b>	<b>8,041</b>

**Table 2 – Rejected postal votes and advices sent to electors by division**

	<b>Not sent - elector deceased</b>	<b>Mailed by divisional office - silent elector</b>	<b>Centrally mailed</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>ACT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>
CANBERRA	0	1	32	33
FRASER	0	0	18	18
<b>NSW</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>2,392</b>
BANKS	1	3	51	55
BARTON	0	0	47	47
BENNELONG	1	2	48	51
BEROWRA	0	8	44	52
BLAXLAND	0	1	65	66
BRADFIELD	0	5	55	60
CALARE	0	0	58	58
CHARLTON	1	2	58	61
CHIFLEY	0	5	34	39
COOK	0	9	63	72
COWPER	0	1	23	24
CUNNINGHAM	0	0	19	19
DOBELL	2	5	50	57
EDEN-MONARO	0	0	38	38
FARRER	1	0	74	75
FOWLER	0	4	34	38
GILMORE	1	1	36	38
GRAYNDLER	0	2	53	55
GREENWAY	0	1	29	30
HUGHES	0	6	38	44
HUME	0	0	14	14
HUNTER	1	5	42	48
KINGSFORD SMITH	0	1	70	71
LINDSAY	0	4	41	45
LOWE	0	1	78	79
LYNE	0	1	18	19
MACARTHUR	0	6	28	34
MACKELLAR	0	1	44	45
MACQUARIE	2	3	79	84
MITCHELL	0	4	28	32
NEW ENGLAND	0	2	60	62
NEWCASTLE	0	10	72	82
NORTH SYDNEY	0	1	66	67

PAGE	0	0	56	56
PARKES	0	0	34	34
PARRAMATTA	1	4	41	46
PATERSON	0	3	32	35
PROSPECT	0	0	24	24
REID	0	1	28	29
RICHMOND	1	4	46	51
RIVERINA	0	2	34	36
ROBERTSON	0	7	62	69
SHORTLAND	1	3	59	63
SYDNEY	0	2	88	90
THROSBY	0	1	16	17
WATSON	1	3	82	86
WENTWORTH	2	1	60	63
WERRIWA	0	3	29	32
<b>NT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>81</b>
LINGIARI	0	1	39	40
SOLOMON	0	0	41	41
<b>QLD</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>1,753</b>
BLAIR	0	10	63	73
BONNER	0	2	74	76
BOWMAN	1	3	63	67
BRISBANE	1	9	42	52
CAPRICORNIA	0	1	87	88
DAWSON	0	2	79	81
DICKSON	0	10	32	42
FADDEN	0	5	49	54
FAIRFAX	0	4	60	64
FISHER	0	3	42	45
FLYNN	0	4	142	146
FORDE	0	2	49	51
GRIFFITH	1	7	79	87
GROOM	1	1	43	45
HERBERT	0	4	84	88
HINKLER	1	11	23	35
KENNEDY	0	2	130	132
LEICHHARDT	1	0	42	43
LILLEY	0	0	7	7
LONGMAN	0	8	37	45
MARANOA	0	1	35	36
MCPHERSON	1	6	51	58
MONCRIEFF	1	2	49	52



MORETON	0	1	30	31
OXLEY	1	4	51	56
PETRIE		10	43	53
RANKIN	0	2	37	39
RYAN	0	6	55	61
WIDE BAY	0	1	45	46
<b>SA</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>661</b>
ADELAIDE	0	10	56	66
BARKER	0	0	69	69
BOOTHBY	0	8	45	53
GREY	2	8	128	138
HINDMARSH	0	5	58	63
KINGSTON	0	10	46	56
MAKIN	1	11	44	56
MAYO	0	1	49	50
PORT ADELAIDE	0	2	17	19
STURT	1	5	26	32
WAKEFIELD	0	8	51	59
<b>TAS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>110</b>
BASS	0	1	27	28
BRADDON	2	0	10	12
DENISON	0	2	21	23
FRANKLIN	0	1	18	19
LYONS	1	0	27	28
<b>VIC</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>1,979</b>
ASTON	0	3	29	32
BALLARAT	0	2	60	62
BATMAN	0	8	26	34
BENDIGO	0	0	47	47
BRUCE	0	0	14	14
CALWELL	0	1	36	37
CASEY	0	2	35	37
CHISHOLM	1	3	38	42
CORANGAMITE	0	4	46	50
CORIO	0	4	42	46
DEAKIN	0	4	33	37
DUNKLEY	0	6	29	35
FLINDERS	0	2	26	28
GELLIBRAND	0	7	95	102
GIPPSLAND	0	8	44	52
GOLDSTEIN	1	13	175	189
GORTON	0	0	2	2

HIGGINS	0	0	9	9
HOLT	0	3	68	71
HOTHAM	1	4	60	65
INDI	0	0	67	67
ISAACS	0	5	113	118
JAGAJAGA	1	4	24	29
KOOYONG	0	0	9	9
LA TROBE	0	1	56	57
LALOR	0	4	18	22
MALLEE	0	3	40	43
MARIBYRNONG	0	4	26	30
MCEWEN	0	7	91	98
MCMILLAN	0	2	74	76
MELBOURNE	0	2	48	50
MELBOURNE PORTS	0	2	178	180
MENZIES	1	6	27	34
MURRAY	1	1	49	51
SCULLIN	0	2	21	23
WANNON	0	0	53	53
WILLS	2	0	46	48
<b>WA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>1,014</b>
BRAND	0	20	90	110
CANNING	0	15	69	84
COWAN	0	6	38	44
CURTIN	0	1	70	71
FORREST	0	0	31	31
FREMANTLE	0	8	61	69
HASLUCK	1	1	43	45
KALGOORLIE	0	0	83	83
MOORE	0	12	38	50
O'CONNOR	1	6	104	111
PEARCE	0	17	63	80
PERTH	1	3	81	85
STIRLING	0	6	54	60
SWAN	0	6	50	56
TANGNEY	0	3	32	35
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>7,454</b>	<b>8,041</b>