

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Costs of Department of Veterans' Affairs protected action ballot

Senator: Seselja

Question reference number: F36

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Pages 112-113, 24 February 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SESELJA: That is fine. Also, I think the CPSU used the same private company to conduct a protected action ballot of its members in the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which I think has about 1,900 employees nationally, so it is a bit smaller, who would mainly be located in the national and state offices. Did the CPSU approach the AEC to inquire as to whether it could conduct a protected action ballot in the Department of Veterans' Affairs?

Mr Rogers: To the best of my knowledge, the answer to that is no. I can confirm that for you, but as far as I am aware they did not approach us. But I would like to confirm that for you so I am not misleading you.

Senator SESELJA: Please confirm that on notice. Likewise with the earlier questioning, is there any reason why the AEC could not conduct a postal ballot in relation to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for protected action?

Mr Rogers: Not that I am aware of.

Senator Ronaldson: If we can get that information for you, we will.

Answer:

The CPSU did not approach the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) specifically about a protected action ballot (PAB) in the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The CPSU did approach the AEC with a more generic enquiry about AEC conduct of PABs. The AEC regularly conducts small and large-scale ballots by post.