

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: Electoral Integrity Unit

Senator: Dastyari

Question reference number: F39

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 116, 24 February 2015

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator DASTYARI: I have some very quick questions about the new Electoral Integrity Unit ... Firstly, can you provide an update of the work of the Electoral Integrity Unit—what work has been done, what is happening, where it is going? That is information we cannot find in the public domain. Secondly, in answer to question F167, which you may have with you—

Mr Rogers: We are finding that now.

Senator DASTYARI: I will read this onto the record and you can take it on notice. In your answer to question F167, you referred to work that the Union is doing on examining the direct enrolment and update program and the divergence between the federal and state and territory roles. Could you provide us with, on notice, an update on the work that was outlined in that question?

Mr Rogers: I am happy to do that. I might just provide a very brief update. I put a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters last week. They are meeting next week about this very issue—about that divergence and what strategy—

Senator DASTYARI: Is that a public submission or a private submission or a matter for the committee?

Mr Rogers: Obviously, the committee has not met, so I cannot talk about what was in that submission, but that is an area that the joint standing committee are actively looking at. I am happy to provide some information around that for you on notice—about the work that the Electoral Integrity Unit is doing and how will it fit into that space.

Answer:

A copy of the Unit's Work Program is attached. This document was submitted to the JSCEM on 20 February 2015 and has been published on the JSCEM's website through the below link:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=5e5aa9d8-a1d0-4963-af3f-9b04dec7b33d>

Note: A letter has been sent to the Secretary of the F&PA Committee, requesting a correction to the record of Senator Dastyari's question at paragraph 3 above (Hansard - page 116, third paragraph from top, line two). The AEC has sought to change "union" to "integrity unit". It has been necessary to request this correction to ensure an appropriate response to this question on notice.