

Question: 7

Topic: Correspondence between Senator Abetz and the Parliamentary Education Office regarding the brochure below dated 15th December 2015 and 22nd December 2015

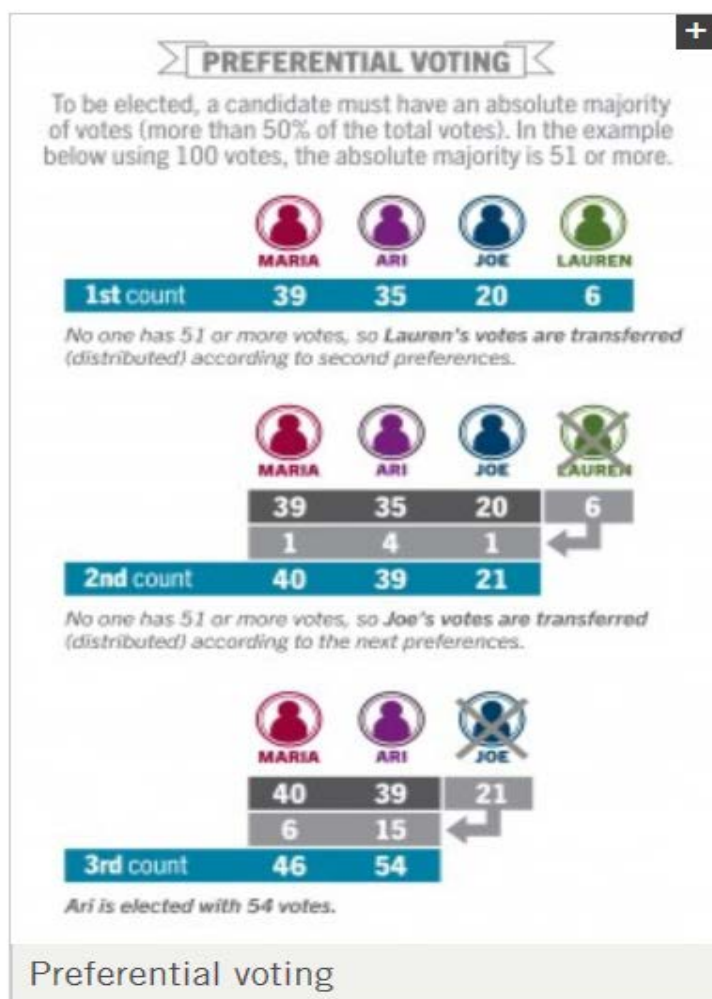
Asked: 12 February 2016

Question: 1

Is it correct for the author of the brochure to assert at the bottom of page 3 of the brochure that 'this page totally copied from an excellent infographic at: www.peo.gov.au/students/fact_sheets/federal_elections.html'?

Answer:

No. The brochure paraphrases the wording about how preferences are distributed and modifies the numerical example contained in the PEO Fact Sheet on Federal Elections. The candidate names and cartoons bear no resemblance to the PEO infographic in the relevant PEO Fact Sheet which is reproduced below, and can be found at the following link: www.peo.gov.au/learning/fact_sheets/federal-elections.html.



Question: 2

Does page 3 of the said brochure appear in any PEO material or on any PEO website?

Answer:

No. The link referenced on the brochure is outdated, as the PEO website was refreshed and relaunched in February 2014.

Question: 3

Is page 3 a total copy of any PEO material?

- a) *If so, please provide a copy.*

Answer:

No.

- a) Not applicable.
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Question: 4

If page 3 of the brochure is not a total copy of any PEO material, what follow up action (detailing such action) has the PEO undertaken to correct the record against this false assertion?

- a) *If no action has been taken, please explain why no action has been taken*

Answer:

No follow-up action has been taken.

- a) The PEO website indicates that all material is made available for use under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-No Derivs 3.0 Australia licence. That regime provides for the use of material to be referenced and places other requirements on derivative use. Mr Alexander has described the distribution of preferences and has provided the numerical example accurately using the PEO Fact sheet. The post on his blog was 30 months ago, does not appear to have recently attracted on-line commentary and contains a broken link. The department, after considering whether to engage with Mr Alexander, exercised the judgement not to do so, given the age of the post, the broken link to the PEO website and the potential for any reaction by the PEO or the department to be misinterpreted as censorship.
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