

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
5 May 2016

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Donation to the 'Fadden Forum'

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: F30

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 96, 5 May 2016

Date set by the Senate for the return of answer: Wednesday, 14 September 2016

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator McALLISTER: Can I ask about a separate media report that appeared in *The Australian*? I seek to table that also, Chair. It raises a donation of \$114,000 to the Fadden Forum in the space of just two months in the lead-up to the 2013 election. The article raises the question about whether or not this series of payments genuinely originated with Simone Holzapfel, or if in fact it came from a third party and was simply laundered through her to conceal the donor's true identity—

...

Senator McALLISTER: ... Is that story, that set of facts, something which gives you concern as the commissioner, Mr Rogers?

Mr Rogers: ... I will have a look at it and read it.

...

Senator McALLISTER: The reason I tabled this second article is that it raises the issue about whether or not there has been a deliberate attempt to conceal the nature of a donor. Is that something that the AEC will be considering?

Mr Rogers: Again, I will have a look at reports and I will read what you have just tabled. I will examine it from there and come to a view.

Answer:

The AEC has looked into the matters raised in the article in *The Australian* on 4 May 2016. Overall the AEC considers the disclosure requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) have been met in this case.