

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

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: ICAC investigations

Senator: Rhiannon

Question reference number: F162

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 112-113, 20 November 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Wednesday, 31 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RHIANNON: I just have one question that relates to this. Thank you for clarifying about the ICAC. Are you just going to be relying on the findings of ICAC? You will not be looking at the evidence and the implications for federal disclosure and things like that? We have the two issues. I took from your previous answer that you would be relying on the findings, the final report, of ICAC to determine—

Mr Rogers: No. That is not what I said. I want to be very clear with this. In fact, I made the comment that I am not bound by the outcomes of the ICAC report so I will not be relying on that report. But we will examine that report to see if any obligations are triggered under the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

...

Senator RHIANNON: Yes. I am not disputing that at all. I am just trying to understand if you will be looking at the body of evidence or just the report and the findings and the recommendations to make your determination of the next step.

Mr Rogers: I would have to check my evidence. I do not want to mislead you. But I think I said that I would look at the outcomes of the ICAC process—and I was trying to be as broad as I possibly could—to see if there are any obligations. I gave a commitment to members of this committee that I would do so. I am not resiling from that. I think I have been very clear that that is the process I intend to follow, but I do not intend to do that until the outcomes of that process, the ICAC process, are complete.

Answer:

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) will review the report of the NSW ICAC when it is published. Where the AEC believes that the contents of the report may have implications for the Commonwealth disclosure scheme the AEC will take action to investigate whether the law has been complied with.