

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
20 October 2015

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Foundation 51 – breaches of the Electoral Act

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F50

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Has the Australian Electoral Commissioner identified breaches of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 by Foundation 51, an associated entity of the Country Liberal Party.

If so:

1. What breaches;
2. What action has the Australian Electoral Commissioner taken in respect to each breach;
and
3. If no action has been taken, why not.

Answer:

1. The Australian Electoral Commission has completed its review of Foundation 51 Pty Ltd's annual disclosure returns for 2011–12, 2012–13 and 2013–14 and has identified two issues of non-compliance, these being for late lodgement of the 2011–12 and 2012–13 returns.
2. The Australian Electoral Commission advised Foundation 51 Pty Ltd that it regards non-compliance as a serious issue and that it expects that future disclosure returns will comply with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act) in all respects including timeliness.
3. Having considered all of the relevant issues the Australian Electoral Commission is of the view that the legislative objective of Part XX of the Act, being disclosure, has been achieved. The Australian Electoral Commission will not take any further action regarding Foundation 51 Pty Ltd's non-compliance in respect of late lodgement.