

## **Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Finance and Administration Portfolio**

#### **Australian Electoral Commission**

Additional Estimates Hearing – 13 February 2007

#### **Question: F34**

#### **Outcome 2, Output 2.1.3**

**Topic: People contact by the AEC in relation to the inquiry into seven pamphlets and advertisements allegedly distributed by the Exclusive Brethren during the 2004 federal election campaign prior to 21 January 2006.**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 117**

#### **Senator Brown asked:**

No, anybody at all. You had been furnished with a list of more than seven electoral pamphlets and so on from me on 11 January, but Mr Pickering had asked me, picking up on a Senate submission, the previous year, in 2004, about electoral material. Are you able to say categorically to the committee that nobody had been approached as a result of any of that information before 21 January last year?

**Mr Bodel**—I would need to take that on notice and just make sure.

**Senator BROWN**—Would you?

**Mr Bodel**—Yes

#### **Answer:**

This question was asked in the context of Senator Bob Brown believing that his letter to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) containing copies of seven electoral advertisement and pamphlets allegedly distributed by the Exclusive Brethren during the 2004 Federal Election was dated 11 January 2005 and the 2004 Federal Election third party return from Willmac Enterprises was dated 21 January 2005 (Page F&PA 117 of the transcript refers).

Senator Bob Brown was correct about the date for the Willmac Enterprises 2004 Federal Election third party return, but not about the date of his letter to the AEC. That letter was dated 11 January 2006.

As a consequence of Senator Bob Brown's misunderstanding about the date on which his letter was sent to the AEC, the question cannot be answered.