

**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: F37**

**Outcome 2, Output 2.1.1**

**Topic: Religious exemption from voting**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 122-123**

**Senator Brown asked:**

How many people had requested and were given exemption from voting in the 2004 election on the grounds of religious belief, and, in particular, on the grounds of being a member of the Exclusive Brethren.

**Answer:**

The number of persons who responded to non-voter notices following the 2004 Federal Election citing religious reasons as their reason for failure to vote was 63,211.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) does not require that electors citing religious reasons for failing to vote provide details of their religion. Accordingly, the AEC is unable to provide information on how many of these people claimed to be members of the Exclusive Brethren.