

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2007

Question: F42

Outcome 1.1 Electoral Roll, Output 1.1.2 Roll Review

Topic: Community visits in remote areas of Western Australia

Written Question on Notice

Senator Webber asked:

How many people were enrolled and removed from the roll as part of the visits to remote communities in the North-West of Western Australia? (see below for list of communities visited)

Does the AEC have any plans for further visits to indigenous communities in Western Australia? If so, which communities and when?

Answer:

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) conducts an annual rural/remote program in Western Australia in partnership with the Western Australian Electoral Commission. The program covers towns, rural areas and remote communities.

Statistics of enrolment activity are not maintained on a community basis. However, in the whole of the Division of Kalgoorlie in 2005/06, there were 13,314 enrolment transactions processed. Additionally, there were 3,311 electors removed from the roll and 4,726 electors transferred their enrolment to another division.

This compares, for example, with the rural Division of Forrest and the Division of Fremantle which processed respectively in 2005/06: 16,036 and 12,203 enrolment transactions; and removed from the roll 3,272 and 3,769 electors; and 2,075 and 3,202 electors transferred their enrolment to another Division.

The rural/remote program in the Division of Kalgoorlie for 2006/07 is in the attached table. Additionally, attendance at NAIDOC Week activities and CROC Festivals are undertaken annually.

The Program is, of course, flexible enough to take advantage of activities within the Division, as the AEC becomes aware of them, as well as to allow for cultural issues as they arise. Plans for 2007/08 are being developed.