

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates Hearing –February 2009

Australian Electoral Commission

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 2 Output 2.1.5

Topic: Industrial Elections

Question reference number: F71

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Scott Ryan asked:

- a) The total cost in the 2007-08 financial year of conducting regular (either annual or otherwise) internal officer and delegate elections for registered trade unions?
- b) An estimate of the total cost of these elections for the 2008-09 financial year.
- c) Estimates or forecasts of these costs over the budget estimates and forecast period.
- d) Estimates of what the AEC would charge an external party for such elections if it were contracted to do so on a commercial basis.
- e) What are the arrangements for funding such elections?
- f) Is cost recovery applied or are they funded by the Commonwealth?

Answer:

- a) Total cost in 2007-08 for industrial elections, including all overheads was \$4,808,000.
- b) Budgeted figure for 2008-09 is \$5,155,000.
- c) The AEC's internal budget for the forward estimates has not been completed. Only the total budget for the AEC is contained in the forward estimates. The AEC expects that costs will be similar in the foreseeable future.
- d) To apply full cost recovery to industrial elections, the AEC would use the costing model used for fee-for-service elections or protected action ballots. That model incorporates full cost recovery, including overheads. The amount charged would be in line with the amounts at answers (a) and (b) above.
- e) Industrial elections are fully funded by government under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*. This money is appropriated to the AEC.
- f) Fully funded by the Commonwealth.