

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010

Australian Electoral Commission

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

AEC Outcome 2, Program 2.1

Topic: Voting for Australian Defence Force Personnel Overseas

Question reference number: F90

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Ronaldson asked:

Following the Government decision to terminate the electronic voting trial for Australian Defence personnel overseas, what work has been undertaken to ensure that our service men and women are enabled and encouraged to vote at the next election?

Answer:

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and Australian Defence Force (ADF) representatives are working together to facilitate electoral services for deployed ADF personnel who will be serving overseas at the time of a general election.

The ADF and AEC will be facilitating voting services for deployed ADF personnel through the provision of postal votes to enrolled and registered personnel.

AEC information on enrolling and general postal voter registration will be provided to the ADF for Force Preparation Kits. In addition, the AEC will, where practicable, make staff available to participate in defence force pre-deployment briefings.

The AEC is also working closely with Australia Post and the ADF to facilitate the speedy despatch of postal voting materials to ADF personnel serving overseas and the timely return of completed ballots to the AEC for inclusion in the count.