

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

**Australian Electoral Commission**

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2007**

**Question: F49**

**Outcome 2, Output 2.1.3**

**Topic: Willmac Enterprises disclosure re \$25,000**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 38**

**Senator Brown asked:**

**Senator BOB BROWN**—In response to a question at the last committee meeting, Mr Bodel said:

The remaining two of the seven items were pamphlets. The amount spent on these items was \$34,914. The expenditure disclosed by Willmac Enterprises on campaign material requiring authorisation, which includes pamphlets, was \$59,600.

Can you tell me where the missing or unaccounted for \$25,000 was spent?

**Mr Campbell**—Again, I will take that on notice in line with my previous response.

**Answer:**

Third party political expenditure returns require the disclosure of total expenditure across a number of categories. One of those categories is expenditure on the production of campaign materials.

Third party electoral expenditure returns do not require specific details, such as the recipient of a specific payment or the sum of a specific payment, to be disclosed. Consequently, the information available to the AEC on Willmac Enterprises' expenditure on the production of campaign materials is not comprehensive.

The Willmac Enterprises political expenditure return for the 2004 federal election lists expenditure of \$59,600 on production of campaign material requiring authorisation (such as posters and pamphlets). The items of expenditure for which the AEC has evidence are as follows:

- Summit Printing Australia (\$34,914.00)
- CBS Printing (\$5,137.00)
- Woolston Printing (\$6,639.78)
- Torch Publishing (\$4,301.22)
- St George Screen Printers (\$1,254.00)