

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: F66

Outcome 1, Output 1.1.1

Topic: Whether decline in enrolments as a result of proof of identity requirements

Hansard page: N/A

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In a media statement on 20th June 2006, under the heading “Greater identity requirements for enrolment” Alan Griffin had this to say:

“This will make it harder to enrol and therefore to be part of the democratic process. It will increase the administrative burden on the AEC and potentially disenfranchise thousands.”

Since the new laws have been in place, if Mr Griffin’s statement were true it would be expected that there would have been a large decline in enrolments since the laws came into effect. Has this been the case?

Answer:

The AEC has undertaken a preliminary comparative analysis of the number of enrolment transactions processed in the period after the implementation of evidence of identity for enrolment, with the number of enrolment transactions in the period prior to its introduction. However, the AEC considers that it is too early to identify significant trends given the short time since its introduction. The AEC will continue to monitor implementation.