

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: F67

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Proof of identity as aid for testing veracity of enrolments

Hansard page: N/A

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Does the new proof of identity requirement assist the AEC in testing the veracity of enrolments?

Answer:

The proof of identity requirements as provided for by amendments to the *Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Electoral Integrity and Other Measures) Act 2006* have been administered by the AEC since their implementation on 16 April 2007.

However, as acknowledged by the Joint Standing Committee of Electoral Matters in its 2005 report into the conduct of the 2004 election, the issue is not so much of whether fraud has occurred, but the prevention of the possibility that it may occur (paragraph 2.60). Therefore, the measuring of any enhancement to integrity may not be possible.