

**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: F69**

**Outcome 1 Output 1.1**

**Topic: Steps for objections off the roll**

**Hansard page: N/A**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

What active steps are being undertaken at the AEC to remove ineligible names from the electoral roll?

**Answer:**

Under ss. 114 (2) and (4) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, a Divisional Returning Officer for a Division must remove a person from the Roll if there are reasonable grounds for believing that the person is not entitled to be enrolled for a sub-Division within that Division. This may occur for example, where the AEC receives data from an external source indicating that the elector has moved, or where mail has been returned to the AEC indicating they have left the address.

The AEC sends out a notification that states that the elector's name will be removed from the Roll if they don't respond to the notification. The notification may go to the address where the AEC believes them to be living, or to the address shown on the Roll (s. 116 (2) (c)). If we have not received a response verbally or in writing (s. 117) within 20 days after giving notification, the AEC will remove the elector's name from the roll, and send a confirmation to that effect (s. 118). The elector may appeal the decision of being removed from the Roll.

In addition to the on-going activities outlined above, the AEC undertook intensive and targeted fieldwork from March to July 2007 to enable the Roll to be further updated. This included identifying electors that had moved, and for which no alternative address could be confirmed or at which the elector had not enrolled.