

**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: F75**

**Outcome 2, Output 2.1.1**

**Topic: Technology for checking roll through networked polling places**

**Hansard page: N/A**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

Has the AEC investigated technology that could facilitate checking of the electoral roll through networked polling places?

**Answer:**

The costs and logistics of providing the necessary equipment and the associated information technology facilities for over 7,700 polling places across Australia, the locations of which cannot be finalised until the election date is known, would be significant. It is also debatable as to whether this could be achieved in the timeframe between the issue of the writ and polling day given that timeframe is not known until the election is announced and can vary from one election to the next.

However, the AEC is looking at the potential uses for Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) loaded with electoral roll information at the next federal election, in light of experience at the Victorian State Election in 2006 and the NSW State Election and the Tasmanian Legislative Council elections in 2007.