

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009

Australian Electoral Commission

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 1, Program 1.1.1

Topic: Complaints about the Electoral Roll

Question reference number: F61

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009

Number of Pages: 2

Senator BERNARDI asked:

- a) Has the AEC received any complaints relating to the electoral roll in State electorate of Fisher in South Australia?
- b) If so, when were the complaint(s) received and what was the nature of the complaint(s)?
- c) Were these complaint(s) investigated and if so what was the outcome of this investigation?
- d) What evidence was collected during any investigations into the complaint(s)?
- e) Have the person(s) about whom the complaint was made been interviewed or contacted about the complaint by any officer of the AEC?
- f) Have the complainant(s) been advised of the status and/or outcome of their complaint?
- g) Has the AEC recommended any further action in regard to the complaint(s) above?

Answer:

- a) Yes. The AEC has received one complaint relating to the electoral roll in the State electorate of Fisher in South Australia.
- b) The complaint was received by email on 18 August 2008. The complaint concerned alleged an elector had temporarily changed enrolment from an address in Naracoorte in the Division of Barker/State District of MacKillop to an address in Stirling, to gain an entitlement to vote in a Liberal Party pre-selection for the South Australian State District of Fisher. The complaint alleged that the elector was running for Liberal Party pre-selection for the SA Legislative Council and listed the Naracoorte address as the elector's residential and postal address in correspondence.
- c) Information about the complaint was referred to the AEC in Canberra where it was reviewed. The information indicated the AEC received a change of enrolment form from the elector dated 19 March 2008 and this was actioned on 25 March 2008. A subsequent change of enrolment form dated 14 April 2008 was received from the elector and this was actioned on 23 April 2008 changing the address details back to the previous address on the electoral roll. Due to the operation of subsections 99(5)

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and 101(7) of the Electoral Act there was no basis under which any legal action could be taken as the period of time involved in this matter was less than one month.

d) See the answer for (c).

e) No.

f) No.

g) No.