

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Australian Electoral Commission

**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1

**Topic:** Two-party preferred voting

**Senator:** Rhiannon

**Question reference number:** F83

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA Committee, pages 101-102, 23 May 2012

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 6 July 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

What is the AEC's position on [providing two-candidate preferred results]? Do you go down the path of providing a true two-candidate preferred result for each House of Representatives seat, or do you go with how many have viewed the world for a long time, which is that it is always between Labor and the coalition?

**Answer:**

After each election the Australian Electoral Commission produces a two-candidate preferred result for every House of Representatives seat, by completing a full distribution of preferences. The results are published on the AEC website and in various election publications.

For the majority of electorates (142 of the 150 seats that were contested at the 2010 election) the two-candidate preferred result is also the two-party preferred result because the leading two candidates were endorsed by the ALP and a Coalition party respectively.

After the official result has been declared, and in order to obtain an indicative, two-party preferred result for the remaining (in 2010, 8) seats, the AEC conducts a 'Scrutiny for Information', authorised by Section 277 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. That process notionally allocates preferences between the ALP and Coalition candidates to provide an indicative result had they been the leading two candidates for those electorates.

The two-party preferred indicative result is also published on the AEC website and in various election publications.