

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

**Department of Finance and Administration**

November Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 4 November 2003

**Question: 4**

**Outcome 2, Output 2.3**

**Topic: Financial Disclosure by Fair Go Alliance**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 103**

**Senator Brandis asked:**

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

Are you able to assist us in telling us, beyond those public sector unions, what other persons or entities are associated with the Fair Go Alliance?

Let me suggest this course, Ms Mitchell: can you take on notice my question and, when you consider the answer to the question, you might at that time no doubt address yourself to the question of whether or not as a matter of convention you assert that the information sought by the question should not be disclosed; and if you decide to invoke that convention in your written response, can you provide the reasons why you have taken that course?

**Answer:**

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

The AEC is currently looking into the matter of whether the Fair Go Alliance is an associated entity and as part of this process is still gathering information. Therefore, even if the AEC considered it appropriate to answer this question, it is currently not in a position to do so. The AEC is still considering whether it would be appropriate for it to provide this information, should it be obtained during the course of its consideration of this matter, given that it is not information required to be included in financial disclosure returns under the provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.