

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

**Australian Electoral Commission**

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2006

**Question: F11**

**Outcome 2, Output 2.1.9**

**Topic: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance**

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**Senator Fifield asked:**

To your knowledge, are the electoral bodies that are members of that organisation from countries that are themselves democracies in every case?

**Answer:**

The Institute is an international organisation. Membership of the Institute is only open to governments, not electoral bodies.

Member countries are: Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, The Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay are full member states. Japan has official observer status.

All these member countries are democracies in themselves.