

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

Supplementary Budget Estimates – October 2006

Question: F6

Outcome 1, Output 1.1.4

Topic: Population projections for ascertainment of representation in the House of Representatives

Hansard Page: F&PA 11

Senator Ray asked:

Has the Electoral Commission done population projections into the future, based on the Bureau of Statistics figures, and any calculations as to likely seat movements when the appropriate time comes – I think it is 13 months after the next election? Sometimes you do projections to see whether or not you think there will be movement. Is there any problem with supplying the committee with your projections?

Answer:

At the end of 12 months after the first meeting of a newly elected House of Representatives, the Electoral Commissioner is required to ascertain the population of the Commonwealth (excluding the Territories) using the latest official statistics published by the Australian Statistician. The Commissioner then makes a determination of the number of parliamentary representatives to which each State is entitled. A similar exercise is used to calculate the entitlements of the Territories. The Commissioner's November 2005 Determination was that New South Wales was to lose one seat and Queensland was to gain one.

Below is a table, prepared for the New South Wales and Queensland redistributions, setting out the population projections and representation entitlement quotas referred to in Senator Ray's question. These projections were used by the Electoral Commission to reach an opinion that Queensland was likely to gain another seat when the representation determination is made 12 months after the first sitting of the Parliament following the expected 2007 election. Consequently, the projection period (the mid-point of the redistribution) for the current Queensland redistribution was determined to be 30 November 2007. This is shorter than that for New South Wales, which is 31 May 2010.

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Projected Resident Population							
As at 31 December 2004 to 2010							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
NSW	6,749,297	6,804,526	6,861,215	6,920,527	6,982,534	7,044,319	7,105,923
Vic.	4,992,667	5,050,665	5,106,401	5,160,854	5,214,040	5,266,976	5,319,709
Qld	3,926,210	4,005,926	4,084,619	4,161,340	4,236,076	4,310,806	4,385,552
SA	1,536,333	1,543,455	1,550,912	1,558,729	1,566,429	1,574,030	1,581,550
WA	1,993,926	2,026,805	2,060,159	2,093,516	2,126,881	2,160,261	2,193,667
Tas.	483,813	486,732	489,129	490,996	492,325	493,615	494,868
NT *	200,844	203,683	206,523	209,380	212,257	215,152	218,068
ACT *	324,229	325,937	328,094	330,212	332,791	335,342	337,861
Total	20,207,319	20,447,729	20,687,052	20,925,554	21,163,333	21,400,501	21,637,198
Other Territories	2,674	2,709	2,744	2,779	2,814	2,848	2,882
Jervis Bay Territory	562	569	577	584	591	599	606
Indian Ocean Territories	2,112	2,140	2,167	2,195	2,223	2,249	2,276
Australia	20,209,993	20,450,438	20,689,796	20,928,333	21,166,147	21,403,349	21,640,080
<p>N.B. The 2004 figures are revised Estimated Resident Population. Projections based on assumptions of fertility, mortality and overseas and interstate migration agreed to by Treasury in July. 2005. Other Territories' projections are disaggregated pro-rata according to the base population Important! These are not official ABS statistics, but customised projections prepared by ABS for the client.</p>							
<i>Approximate Quotas exclude post enumeration survey standard errors and external territories adjustments</i>							
Approx. Quota:	136682	138320	139947	141569	143183	144792	146398
Projected House of Representatives Seats (approx)							
As at 31 December							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
NSW	49.38	49.19	49.03	48.88	48.77	48.65	48.54
Vic.	36.53	36.51	36.49	36.45	36.42	36.38	36.34
Qld	28.73	28.96	29.19	29.39	29.59	29.77	29.96
SA	11.24	11.16	11.08	11.01	10.94	10.87	10.8
WA	14.59	14.65	14.72	14.79	14.85	14.92	14.98
Tas.	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
NT *	1.48	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.5	1.5	1.51
ACT *	2.37	2.36	2.34	2.33	2.32	2.32	2.31

* N.B: The population figures and quotas for the ACT and the NT do not include any adjustment which might result from application of the *standard error* requirement in s 48 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.
 Also note, the population figures do not include residents of Norfolk Island captured by s 45(2) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.