Electoral Commissioner

West Block Offices Parkes ACT 2600

PO Box 6172 Kingston ACT 2604

Telephone (02) 6271 4402 Facsimile (02) 6271 4554 www.aec.gov.au ABN 21 133 285 851

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Department of the Senate
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

SENATE ESTIMATES - CORRECTIONS TO AEC INFORMATION PROVIDED ON 31 OCTOBER 2006

I am writing to provide clarification and corrections to some AEC responses at the Estimates hearings of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration on Tuesday, 31 October 2006.

- 1. Senator Robert Ray asked questions about senior AEC officers observing overseas elections (Hansard F&PA 5 refers). In my response I incorrectly advised that Mr Hallett was a member of the Commonwealth team in Fiji. Mr Hallett was in fact a member of the Pacific Islands Forum Observer Mission to the Fiji election.
- 2. Senator Faulkner asked who conducted the focus group research for the AEC (Hansard F&PA12 refers). Ms Urbanski replied "the focus group research was undertaken by Eureka Strategic Research". In addition to this, focus groups with indigenous background participants were conducted by a specialist indigenous communications consultant, Winangali Pty Ltd, and focus groups with participants from non-English speaking backgrounds were conducted by CIRCA (Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre Australia).
- 3. Senator Robert Ray also asked a question about information, in relation to provisional enrolment of 17-year-olds, derived from a survey (Hansard F&PA 14 refers). In reply, Ms Davis referred to the YES, the youth enrolment study, that has been ongoing with the University of New South Wales and the ANU for some time. In fact it is Sydney University.

Could you please bring these matters to the attention of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

lan Campbell

Electoral Commissioner

November 2006