

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2008

**Australian Electoral Commission
Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**



Outcome 1, Output 1.1.1

Topic: Electoral enrolment of union members

Question reference number: F1

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA6, 21 October 2008

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2008

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Fifield asked:

Senator FIFIELD—So it is something that you have investigated as a matter of maintaining the integrity of the Commonwealth roll. You have not checked to see whether these individuals might happen to all be enrolled at some other address for the purposes of the Commonwealth roll?... Will the AEC go that far? Perhaps they have found a residence somewhere which the all—

Mr Dacey—...But we will take that on notice and look at what further action we might need to take.

Senator FIFIELD—If you could, because if there was the temptation in one context to all enrol in a factory maybe there was the temptation in another context to all enrol at a residential address.

Answer:

The AEC is restricted in its use of information by the provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, the *Privacy Act 1988*, the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, and the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*, and is unable to use information collected for one purpose (trade union elections) for another purpose (verifying electoral enrolment).

However, the AEC has written to the Western Australian Electoral Commission to determine if they can assist in answering this question.

Further, the AEC has reviewed enrolment records and, for all Western Australian divisions, there are no standard residential addresses with 32 or more enrolled persons.



Electoral Commissioner

Our Ref: mp0405~08/1171



Ms Christine McDonald
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
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CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

In the answer to Question on Notice F1 from the hearings of the Committee into the Supplementary Budget Estimates for the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on 21 October 2008, the AEC stated it had written to the Western Australian Electoral Commission requesting any information it could provide regarding the enrolment on the WA State electoral roll of a group of construction workers.

I wish to advise that the WA Electoral Commission has reported that, of the persons registered on the CFMEU roll for one address, 22 were found on the State electoral roll and these 22 people lived at 22 different addresses. The WA Electoral Commission also advised that the number of other electors living at those addresses appeared to be family members and numbered two or less.

I would appreciate your assistance in passing this information to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Ed Killesteyn
Electoral Commissioner

2 February 2009