

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 2, Output 2.1.1

Topic: Number of dual/multiple marks found to be clerical errors

Question reference number: F5 and F6

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 9, 21 October 2008

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

Number of Pages: 6

Senator Abetz asked:

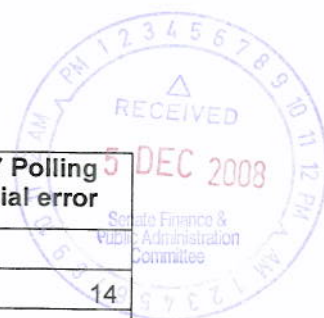
The Committee secretariat agreed to the combination of the questions as follows:
For the 2001, 2004 and 2007 elections, provide the number of dual/multiple voting marks found to be clerical errors.

Answer:

Where there is more than one mark on a certified list against an elector, Divisional staff are required to check images of the certified list to determine if the marks appear valid, that is, not a mark or smudge causing an error. After that has been done, letters are sent to all electors who appear to have voted more than once advising them of the situation and asking for their comments. The Divisional Returning Officer reviews the feedback, and processes the replies accordingly. One of the feedback outcomes is a determination that the polling official has marked the incorrect elector's name on a certified list. The total of 11 188 errors in 2007 (1.4 errors per polling place) is 0.1% of the more than 10,000,000 marks made on polling day.

The following table provides a comparative breakdown of marks due to clerical error, using statistics as at 23 October 2008.

Divisions	2001 Polling official error	2004 Polling official error	2007 Polling official error
ACT			
CANBERRA	62	75	14
FRASER	185	70	1
Total ACT	247	145	15
NSW			
BANKS	104	58	118
BARTON	106	4	63
BENNELONG	174	87	7
BEROWRA	161	4	6
BLAXLAND	77	137	107
BRADFIELD	149	87	9
CALARE	52	80	60
CHARLTON	66	12	98
CHIFLEY	127	138	127
COOK	132	74	39
COWPER	47	51	83
CUNNINGHAM	57	55	70
DOBELL	59	12	115
EDEN-MONARO	128	55	80
FARRER	142	2	13
FOWLER	103	54	135
GILMORE	36	44	45
GRAYNDLER	169	72	111
GREENWAY	112	85	92
GWYDIR	145	21	n/a
HUGHES	71	91	114
HUME	54	63	45
HUNTER	66	79	13
KINGSFORD SMITH	32	87	97
LINDSAY	75	86	71
LOWE	125	78	102
LYNE	80	54	3
MACARTHUR	77	66	58



Divisions	2001 Polling official error	2004 Polling official error	2007 Polling official error
NSW (cont)			
MACKELLAR	86	36	91
MACQUARIE	60	75	0
MITCHELL	142	69	89
NEW ENGLAND	103	64	72
NEWCASTLE	64	53	74
NORTH SYDNEY	147	55	3
PAGE	42	62	75
PARKES	60	52	20
PARRAMATTA	144	68	120
PATERSON	80	65	71
PROSPECT	71	81	33
REID	59	111	110
RICHMOND	80	52	69
RIVERINA	167	62	86
ROBERTSON	103	70	66
SHORTLAND	69	107	70
SYDNEY	231	29	93
THROSBY	44	73	39
WARRINGAH	64	54	97
WATSON	237	73	157
WENTWORTH	154	80	97
WERRIWA	105	118	70
Total NSW	5038	3245	3483
NT			
LINGIARI	74	145	30
SOLOMON	105	144	14
Total NT	179	289	44
QLD			
BLAIR	39	41	86
BONNER	n/a	42	123
BOWMAN	73	2	100
BRISBANE	126	34	25
CAPRICORNIA	41	70	43
DAWSON	56	52	88



Divisions	2001 Polling official error	2004 Polling official error	2007 Polling official error
QLD (cont)			
DICKSON	33	89	70
FADDEN	281	23	135
FAIRFAX	70	57	92
FISHER	44	37	5
FLYNN	n/a	n/a	35
FORDE	65	6	106
GRIFFITH	205	56	90
GROOM	36	45	26
HERBERT	52	50	75
HINKLER	37	39	67
KENNEDY	72	15	55
LEICHHARDT	27	109	187
LILLEY	133	65	68
LONGMAN	33	51	90
MARANO	90	45	18
MCPHERSON	34	43	62
MONCRIEFF	9	83	84
MORETON	116	107	20
OXLEY	47	59	85
PETRIE	80	5	8
RANKIN	39	20	75
RYAN	64	59	97
WIDE BAY	104	3	100
Total QLD	2006	1307	2115
SA			
ADELAIDE	104	11	70
BARKER	67	7	24
BONYTHON	51	n/a	n/a
BOOTHBY	79	54	39
GREY	78	18	89
HINDMARSH	73	54	57
KINGSTON	208	71	63
MAKIN	100	7	86
MAYO	103	7	75
PORT ADELAIDE	100	29	82



Divisions	2001 Polling official error	2004 Polling official error	2007 Polling official error
SA (cont)			
STURT	122	97	106
WAKEFIELD	71	4	46
Total SA	1156	359	737
TAS			
BASS	72	50	67
BRADDON	24	48	68
DENISON	149	65	79
FRANKLIN	26	55	70
LYONS	78	40	63
Total TAS	349	258	347
VIC			
ASTON	85	72	89
BALLARAT	102	79	103
BATMAN	134	106	67
BENDIGO	41	1	84
BRUCE	169	4	126
BURKE	153	n/a	n/a
CALWELL	198	28	127
CASEY	89	5	0
CHISHOLM	125	3	0
CORANGAMITE	137	4	50
CORIO	165	42	125
DEAKIN	100	2	0
DUNKLEY	116	2	87
FLINDERS	221	17	143
GELLIBRAND	57	17	41
GIPPSLAND	110	2	75
GOLDSTEIN	212	8	187
GORTON	N/A	0	283
HIGGINS	175	3	0
HOLT	98	1	182
HOTHAM	173	50	103
INDI	1859	12	78
ISAACS	95	15	138



Divisions	2001 Polling official error	2004 Polling official error	2007 Polling official error
VIC (cont)			
JAGAJAGA	148	65	49
KOORYONG	75	3	76
LA TROBE	133	75	86
LALOR	168	13	109
MALLEE	44	72	72
MARIBYRNONG	106	7	158
MCEWEN	59	46	110
MCMILLAN	59	1	99
MELBOURNE	178	5	78
MELBOURNE PORTS	186	12	117
MENZIES	98	2	2
MURRAY	107	70	87
SCULLIN	75	82	111
WANNON	60	3	6
WILLS	253	93	31
Total VIC	6363	1022	3279
WA			
BRAND	40	88	49
CANNING	44	71	69
COWAN	28	24	110
CURTIN	95	66	72
FORREST	44	78	36
FREMANTLE	50	112	107
HASLUCK	83	25	73
KALGOORLIE	47	90	140
MOORE	22	82	2
O'CONNOR	15	69	83
PEARCE	66	49	95
PERTH	30	79	78
STIRLING	33	37	93
SWAN	96	68	89
TANGNEY	30	51	72
Total WA	723	989	1168
NATIONAL TOTAL	16061	7614	11188

