

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing –October 2009

Australian Electoral Commission

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome: 3, Program: 3.1.1

Topic: Closures of Electoral Education Centres in Adelaide and Melbourne

Question reference number: F12 (a-c)

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Bernardi asked:

Regarding the closures of the Electoral Education Centres in Adelaide and Melbourne:

- a) Can you update me on the progress of these closures?
- b) Of the staff who were employed at these two centres, how many were re-located?
- c) Did any individuals lose their jobs? If so, how many?

Answer:

a) The Adelaide and Melbourne Electoral Education Centres closed on 30 June 2009. The AEC is in the process of decommissioning both centres and examining options for the integration and re-use of the software/hardware.

The Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) and the AEC's national property staff are exploring options regarding lease agreements for the Melbourne EEC, including negotiating a shortening in the term of the lease, assigning the lease to another tenant, and sub-leasing the site. The AEC will use the space vacated by the EECs in Adelaide and Melbourne for election and redistribution activities, thereby achieving savings for other programs.

b) Of the seven ongoing staff employed at the Adelaide and Melbourne Electoral Education Centres, two have been permanently relocated into other ongoing, at-level positions within the AEC in Victoria.

c) Five of the seven ongoing staff employed at the Adelaide and Melbourne EECs have opted to take a voluntary redundancy. The last voluntary redundancy process should conclude in early December 2009.