

## Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

#### Department of Finance and Deregulation

#### Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

### Outcome General, Program General

#### Topic: 2010 Election

#### Question reference number: F36

#### Type of Question: Written

#### Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

#### Number of Pages: 2

#### Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) What type of work did your portfolio engage in during the campaign?
- b) Did you receive any requests for information from the Government, your portfolio Ministers or any other Ministers?

#### Answer:

- a) In accordance with the caretaker conventions the Finance and Deregulation Portfolio continued to undertake business as usual functions during the 2010 election campaign. In line with past practice during federal elections, the Department of Finance and Deregulation:
  - Prepared the Incoming Government Briefing.
  - Managed IT support for the Leader of the Opposition and his travelling party.
  - AUSPIC photographers accompanied the travelling parties of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.
  - Prepared the electorate offices of retiring Members for occupation by newly elected Members.
  - Administered hotel and travelling allowance arrangements for the travelling parties of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.
  - Provided car-with-driver transport, within entitlements, to clients throughout the campaign.
  - Provided a series of advices to Senators and Members on the use of entitlements during the election campaign.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) continued to administer the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. Specifically, the AEC:

- Maintained an accurate and up-to-date electoral Roll producing a supplementary certified list to give effect to the High Court decision in *Rowe & Anor v Electoral Commissioner & Anor*.

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- Provided election services to Australians.
- Provided information services on electoral matters to Australians.

b) Yes.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation responded to three requests from the then Minister for Finance and Deregulation:

- A copy of the actuarial advice underpinning the costs of alternative pension indexation arrangements as set out in the Department's submission to the Matthews Review and referenced in the Matthews Report. This information was provided on 3 August 2010.
- On 22 July 2010, advice on the ICT Business as Usual (BAU) Re-Investment Fund. The office was referred to advice provided by the department on 12 May 2010 and in March 2010.
- The department also provided advice on the Government advertising campaigns in the forward estimates.

The AEC received a request to provide information on the implementation and implications of the High Court decision in *Rowe & Anor v Electoral Commissioner & Anor*.