

## Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Australian Electoral Commission

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

#### Outcome 1, Program 1.2

**Topic: Voting for blind and low vision (BLV) electors at the 2010 election.**

**Question reference number: F97**

**Type of Question: Written**

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

**Number of Pages: 7**

**Senator Fifield asked:**

- a) Please provide a breakdown of the locations for telephone voting that includes:
  - I. Which electorates had a telephone voting location physically within its boundaries? and,
  - II. Which electorates did not?
- b) How many electors voted using the telephone voting service:
  - I. At pre-poll stations?
  - II. On election day 21 August 2010?
- c) Was the AEC satisfied with the system?
- d) Has the AEC received any complaints about the operation of the telephone voting system? Please provide details of any complaints
- e) Will the AEC review its services for blind and vision impaired voters with a view to improving and expanding them at the next federal election?
- f) Will the AEC consult with stakeholders such as the Disability Discrimination Commissioner and Vision Australia on the operation of the telephone voting system in 2010 and how it can be improved?

#### **Answer:**

a)	
I.	With the exception of the Division of McMillan in Victoria, every Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) divisional office was appointed as a Blind and Low Vision (BLV) voting centre. The Division of McMillan does not have a private area where BLV voters could cast a secret vote.  BLV voting centres were also set up in Alice Springs and at seven pre-poll voting centres that were located in the offices of organisations that provide BLV services to the general community. A list of all sites is included in the attachment.
II.	Not all AEC offices are physically located within their electorate boundaries. Where offices are collocated, only one office will be located within its divisional

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	<p>boundaries, with the remaining offices sharing the same office location. Collocated offices are indicated in the attachment. In total, 126 separate locations were made available for BLV voting in 2010, compared to 29 locations in 2007.</p>
b)	410.
I.	386 prior to election day.
II.	24 on election day.
c)	<p>The objective of the system was to provide a secret vote for all BLV voters who chose to access the facilities provided for the 2010 election. That objective was achieved.</p>
d)	<p>While the AEC received no complaints about the use of the telephone voting system itself, the AEC was notified by the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on 17 June 2010 that it had received a complaint. The complainant is a vision impaired elector claiming that the telephone voting system process that was then proposed to be used for the general election (and was actually used) meant that he could not vote privately. The AHRC indicated that the complaint raised the issue of whether this voting process constituted disability discrimination under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i> and a breach of human rights under the <i>Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986</i>. A conciliation conference involving the complainant, the AHRC and the AEC has been scheduled for 13 December 2010.</p>
e)	<p>Yes. A BLV Reference Group, comprising the Disability Discrimination Commissioner and representatives from Vision Australia, Blind Citizens Australia and the Australian Blindness Forum agreed on the call centre solution as an interim measure for the 2010 election.</p> <p>The AEC has worked in close cooperation with state and territory electoral authorities and the BLV Reference Group and has agreed a telephone voting standard for elections that will ensure a common interface for BLV electors, regardless of the level of government for which they are voting, or the voting system being used. Other options will continue to be explored as new technologies emerge.</p>
f)	<p>Yes. The BLV Reference Group will be the major consultative forum for the implementation of future BLV voter services provision, which will initially be the implementation of the preferred telephone voting option. Advice about system development, testing and review from the BLV voter perspective will occur through the Reference Group.</p>

**Divisional Offices and Pre Poll Voting Offices Providing Blind and Low Vision  
Voting Facilities for the 2010 Federal Election**

**Australian Capital Territory (ACT)**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Street Address</b>
Canberra and Fraser	1st Floor, 8-10 Hobart Place, Canberra City ACT 2601

**New South Wales (NSW)**

<b>Pre-poll voting centre</b>	<b>Street Address</b>
Vision Australia	4 Mitchell St, Enfield NSW 2136
<b>Division</b>	<b>Street Address</b>
Banks	Level 1, 145 Forest Road, Hurstville NSW 2220
Blaxland and Watson	Level 6, 2 Meredith Street, Bankstown NSW 2200
Barton	Level 2, 21 King Street, Rockdale NSW 2216
Bennelong, Berowra, Bradfield and North Sydney	Level 12, 67 Albert Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067
Calare	1st Floor, Commonwealth Offices, 122 Kite Street, Orange NSW 2800
Charlton	Tenancy 3, Toronto Commercial Centre, 7 Pemell Street, Toronto NSW 2283
Chifley	1/19 Campbell St, Blacktown NSW 2148
Cook	Cnr Kingsway & Jackson Ave, Miranda NSW 2228
Cowper	Suite 2, 72-74 Elbow Street, West Kempsey NSW 2440
Cunningham	4th Floor, Corporate Square, 43 Burelli Street, Wollongong NSW 2500
Dobell	Suite 7, Wyong Plaza Village, 36 Alison Rd, Wyong NSW 2259
Eden-Monaro	Ground Floor, 7 Morrissett Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
Farrer	Ground Floor, Farrer House, 526 Swift Street, Albury NSW 2640
Fowler and McMahon	Suite 3, Level 2, Neeta City Shopping Centre, 54 Smart Street, Fairfield NSW 2165
Gilmore	3B Nowra Lane, Nowra NSW 2541
Grayndler, Sydney and Wentworth	Level 3, Roden Cutler House, 24 Campbell Street, Haymarket NSW 2000
Greenway	Shop 6-7, 139 Windsor Street, Richmond NSW 2753
Hughes	Cnr Kingsway & Jackson Ave, Miranda NSW 2228
Hume	40 Goldsmith Street, Goulburn NSW 2580
Hunter and Paterson	13 Mitchell Drive, East Maitland NSW 2323
Kingsford Smith	Level 3, Suite 401 Office Tower, Westfield Shoppingtown, Eastgardens NSW 2036
Lindsay	Ground Floor, 311 High Street, Penrith NSW 2750

Lyne	Shop 4, Manning Arcade, 20 Manning St, Taree NSW 2430
Macarthur and Werriwa	Level 7, 138 Queen Street, Campbelltown NSW 2560
Mackellar	Level 4, Peninsula Business Centre, 20 Bungan Street, Mona Vale NSW 2103
Macquarie	Shop 4, Raymond Mall, 7-9 Raymond Road, Springwood NSW 2777
Mitchell	Level 1, 2-4 Old Castle Hill Road, Castle Hill NSW 2154
Newcastle	88 Tudor Street, Hamilton NSW 2303
New England	Level 1, 97-101 Faulkner Street, Armidale NSW 2350
Page	Shop 8, 22 King Street, Grafton NSW 2460
Parkes	Level 2, Commonwealth Offices, Cnr Macquarie and Wingewarra Streets, Dubbo NSW 2830
Parramatta	Level 3, North Wing, Jessie Street Centre, 2-12 Macquarie Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
Reid	1st Floor, Strathfield Plaza, 11 The Boulevard, Strathfield NSW 2135
Richmond	Shop 2/69 Wharf Street, Tweed Heads NSW 2485
Riverina	Wade-Ferrell's Building, 4 Twynam Street, Narrandera NSW 2700
Robertson	2nd Floor, 86-88 Mann Street, Gosford NSW 2250
Shortland	Suite 4, 45 Pearson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290
Throsby	Shop 49A, Warilla Grove Shopping Centre, Shellharbour Road, Warilla NSW 2528
Warringah	Level 1, 22 Darley Road, Manly NSW 2095

### Northern Territory (NT)

Division	Street Address
Lingiari and Solomon	Level 7, TCG Centre, 80 Mitchell St, Darwin NT 0800
Alice Springs office	Suite 3 Yeperenye Centre, Gregory Terrace, Alice Springs NT 0870

### QLD

Pre-poll voting centre	Street Address
Queen Alexandra Home	347 Old Cleveland Road, Coorparoo QLD 4151
Division	Street Address
Blair, Oxley and Wright	3rd Floor, Hayden Centre, 37 South Street, Ipswich Qld 4305
Bonner, Brisbane, Griffith, Lilley, Moreton and Ryan	7th Floor, 488 Queen Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
Bowman	23 Middle Street, Cleveland Qld 4163
Capricornia	Level 1, 212 Quay Street, Rockhampton City QLD

	4700
Dawson	1st Floor, Corporate Centre, Cnr Victoria & Gregory Streets, Mackay Qld 4740
Dickson	Shop 10C, Strathpine Plaza, Cnr Gympie & Bells Pocket Roads, Strathpine Qld 4500
Fadden, Forde and Rankin	Ground Floor, 108 George Street, Beenleigh Qld 4207
Fairfax	Commonwealth Government Centre, Cnr Maud and Currie Streets, Nambour Qld 4560
Fisher	130 Bulcock Street, Caloundra Qld 4551
Flynn	Level 1 Centrepont Building, 136 Goondoon Street Gladstone QLD 4680
Groom	Ground Floor, McNab Building, Cnr Neil and Laurel Sts, Toowoomba Qld 4350
Herbert	1st Floor, Townsville Commonwealth Centre, 143-201 Walker Street, Townsville Qld 4810
Hinkler	33 Maryborough Street, Bundaberg Qld 4670
Kennedy	Suite 1, Isa House, 119 Camooweal Street, Mt Isa Qld 4825
Leichhardt	2nd Floor, Commonwealth Centre, 104 Grafton Street, Cairns Qld 4870
Longman	Shop 2, 77 King Street, Caboolture Qld 4510
McPherson and Moncrieff	1st Floor, 3 Short Street, Southport Qld 4215
Maranoa	1A Stuart Street, Dalby Qld 4405
Petrie	1st Floor, Commonwealth Centre, 18 Banfield Street, Chermide Qld 4032
Wide Bay	Telstra House, 277 -281 Adelaide Street, Maryborough Qld 4650

### South Australia

<b>Pre-poll voting centre</b>	<b>Street Address</b>
Royal Society for the Blind	Blacks Rd, Gilles Plains SA 5086
<b>Division</b>	<b>Street Address</b>
Adelaide and Sturt	9 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Origin Energy House, 1 King William Street, ADELAIDE SA 5000
Barker	4/2 Mitchell Street, MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290
Boothby. Hindmarsh and Kingston	5 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Marion Tower, 297 Diagonal Road, OAKLANDS PARK SA 5046
Grey	Nthn Gateway Shopping Centre, Marryatt Street, PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700
Makin	959 North East Road, MODBURY SA 5092
Mayo	Suites 5 & 6, 3 – 5 Mount Barker Road, STIRLING SA 5152
Port Adelaide	Ground Floor Customs House, 220 Commercial Road, PT ADELAIDE SA 5015

Wakefield	Elizabeth House, Oxenham Drive, ELIZABETH CITY CENTRE SA 5112
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### Tasmania

Division	Street Address
Bass and Lyons	Ground Floor, 87 George Street, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Braddon	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Harris Building, 49 Cattley Street, BURNIE TAS 7320
Denison and Franklin	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, AMP Building, 86 Collins Street, HOBART TAS 7000

### Victoria

Pre-poll voting centre	Street Address
Vision Australia	454 Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong VIC 3144
Vision Australia	79 High St, Belmont VIC 3216
Vision Australi	2A Mouritz St, Warragul VIC 3820
Division	Street Address
Aston	Level 2, 420 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South Vic 3152
Ballarat	5b Doveton St North, Ballarat Vic 3350
Batman	621 High St, Thornbury Vic 3071
Bendigo	371 Hargreaves St, Bendigo Vic 3550
Bruce	5/1-3 Compark Cct, Mulgrave Vic 3170
Calwell	16 Brook St, Sunbury Vic 3429
Casey, Chisholm, Deakin and Menzies	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 41-43 Ringwood St, Ringwood Vic 3134
Corangamite	55 Dennis St, Colac Vic 3250
Corio	Ground Floor, 122 Yarra Street, Geelong Vic 3220
Dunkley	20 Davey St, Frankston Vic 3199
Flinders	Shop 3, 82 High St, Hastings Vic 3915
Gellibrand	Level 1, 6-12 South Road, Braybrook Vic 3019
Gippsland	91 Raymond St, Sale Vic 3850
Goldstein	24 Bay Rd, Sandringham Vic 3191
Gorton	348A Main Rd West, St Albans Vic 3021
Higgins	1343 Malvern Rd, Malvern Vic 3144
Holt	Shop 2, 15 Childers Street, Cranbourne Vic 3977
Hotham	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, 20-22 Atherton Rd, Oakleigh Vic 3166
Indi	Shop 3, Ely St, Wangaratta Vic 3677
Isaacs	Suite 2, 1265 Nepean Hwy, Cheltenham Vic 3192
Jagajaga	65 Burgundy St, Heidelberg Vic 3084
Kooyong	Suite 1, Level 2, 695 Burke Rd, Camberwell Vic 3124
Lalor	Level 2, 75-79 Watton St, Werribee Vic 3030
La Trobe	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 252 Dorset Rd, Boronia Vic 3155

McEwen	Shop 4, 30 Wallis St, Seymour Vic 3660
Mallee	Haselgrove House, 122 Ninth St, Mildura Vic 3500
Maribyrnong	4 Homer St, Moonee Ponds Vic 3039
Melbourne and Melbourne Ports	Ground Floor, Casselden Place, 2 Lonsdale St, Melbourne Vic 3000
Murray	377-379 Wyndham St, Shepparton Vic 3630
Scullin	Tenancy 1, University Hill Business Park, 2 Enterprise Drive, Bundoora Vic 3083
Wannon	100 Kepler St, Warrnambool Vic 3280
Wills	Shop 4, 830 Pascoe Vale Rd, Glenroy Vic 3046

### West Australia

Pre-poll voting centre	Street Address
Association for the Blind – Guide Dogs WA	61 Kitchener Ave, Victoria Park WA 6100
Division	Street Address
Brand	Unit 4, 3 Robinson Place, Rockingham WA 6168
Canning	Unit 4, 49 Church Ave, Armadale WA 6112
Cowan	Unit 3, 56 Creaney Drive, Kingsley WA 6026
Curtin	Rear 502 Hay St Cnr Agnew Way and Railway Rd, Subiaco WA 6009
Durack	Batavia Marina, Level 1, Unit 5, 11 Wiebbe Hayes Lane, Geraldton WA 6530
Forrest	8 <sup>th</sup> Flr, Bunbury Tower, 61 Victoria St, Bunbury WA 6230
Fremantle	Rear of Lancaster House, Shop 3, 218 Rockingham Rd, Spearwood WA 6163
Hasluck and Pearce	Unit 11, 53 The Crescent, Midland WA 6056
Moore	Unit 1, 140 Grand Boulevard, Joondalup WA 6027
O'Connor	Brookman House, Unit 2, 37 Brookman St, Kalgoorlie WA 6433
Perth	Lvl 3, 111 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000
Stirling	2 <sup>nd</sup> Flr, Northcourt Bldg, Burroughs Rd, Karrinyup WA 6018
Swan	Unit 2A, 1336-1340 Albany Hwy, Cannington WA 6107
Tangney	Unit 2, Lower Ground Flr Gateway Building, Andrea Lane, Booragoon WA 6154