

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Automatic Enrolments

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F56

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator RYAN: Can you take this on notice. Do you have document with a rollout plan for automatic enrolments?

Mr Killesteyn: Yes.

Senator RYAN: Can you take it on notice to provide that?

Mr Killesteyn: I will. I might add that I will be writing to all members of parliament in the course of the next couple of weeks—so that will be certainly before we start in Tasmania—outlining our plans in relation to federal direct enrolment and updating.

Answer:

The rollout plan for federal direct enrolment and update is contained in the attached document:

Attachment A – (Federal) Direct Enrolment and Address Update

(Federal) Direct Enrolment and Address Update

1. Indicative timeline for implementation

Direct enrolment and address update cycles will commence each month, with each cycle having a 60 day duration. The progressive approach to implementation means that all states and territories will be fully participating by mid-2013.

Letters sent to electors*	Direct enrolment or address update applied for electors who do not respond to the AEC*	Direct enrolment and address update introduced in the state or territory for the first time
November 2012	December 2012	Tasmania
December 2012	January 2013	New South Wales and Victoria
January 2013	February 2013	Queensland and South Australia
February 2013	March 2013	Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory

*More specific dates available closer to implementation.

The AEC will commence direct enrolment and address update in WA for the Commonwealth roll in the months following their state election on 9 March 2013.

2. AEC's direct enrolment and address update process

The direct enrolment and address update process comprises the following steps:

- a. Data in – data from another government agency is loaded into AEC systems.
- b. Matching and integrity – data is cross-referenced against other data sources including the electoral roll and citizenship data to determine eligibility.
- c. Exclusions – individuals not eligible for direct enrolment and address update (including special category groups) are excluded from the process and may be contacted through other AEC channels, such as the standard mail review program.
- d. Notification – the AEC writes to the elector to advise them of the intent to enrol or update their address details, including the option to reply within 28 days.
- e. Responses – any changes or response received within the 28 day period is processed by divisional offices.
- f. Update – the electoral roll is updated for electors who do not respond to the AEC and the elector advised about the outcome.