



Government Response

to the

Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

*Review of certain aspects of the administration of the
Australian Electoral Commission*

September 2008

Government Response to the Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters: *Review of certain aspects of the administration of the Australian Electoral Commission*

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Auditor-General conduct an audit of workforce planning in the Australian Electoral Commission, with a view to determining whether the Commission's workforce planning strategy is supporting effective practices in human resource management for divisional office staff and achieving efficient and effective outcomes.

Response

Noted. The Government notes that this is a matter for the Auditor-General who has advised that the 2007-08 performance audit work program for the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) includes a potential audit of the management of the 2007 Federal Election by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). The Auditor-General has also advised that the committee's recommendations will be taken into account when the ANAO formulates its approach for this audit.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that, as part of the audit on workforce planning in the Australian Electoral Commission proposed in Recommendation 1, the Auditor-General also examine the efficiency and effectiveness of working arrangements in co-located divisional offices.

Response

Noted. Please refer to the response to recommendation 1.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Australian Electoral Commission includes an evaluation of the performance of all co-located divisional offices in the upcoming federal election in its submission to the JSCEM inquiry into the conduct of the 2007 Federal Election.

Response

Supported. The AEC has advised that it will include performance information on all relevant business programs, including co-located divisional offices, as part of its submissions to the inquiry by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters into the conduct of the 2007 Federal Election and related matters.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the Australian Government ensures that the National Tally Room is retained for future federal elections.

Response

Supported in principle. Prior to the next federal election, the Government will give careful consideration to the arrangements for the National Tally Room, including the possibility of sharing the cost of the facility with the media. The Government will take account of the views of the Parliament, the AEC and other interested parties, including media stakeholders.