

SUBMISSION 15

From: ANGE KENOS JP
Sent: Monday, 18 June 2007 3:18 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: submission

Hello

I have been an employee at every state and federal election, constitutional referenda and the Timor Poll since 1974 and have reached as "high" as OIC of a polling place, worked in offices before and after elections... I am also a trained Civics and Citizenship teacher.

The following extremely brief points are based on that combined experience.

"X the adequacy of AEC co-location of divisional offices, including both financial and social consequences of co-locations;

1/ locations need to be accessible to good parking and some, simply put, are woefully not so; this causes a problem at the best of times but significantly so when the offices are busy

2/ offices need to either contain a large room or be near enough for election time use

3/ ideally deals should be made with the states to share resources and thus costs

"X the number of staff and the employment structure of staff in divisional offices;

1/ adequate staffing numbers in quiet times but not so when busy eg electoral reviews and most especially election time;

2/ promotion ladders are woeful with many staff being unhappy "V both full time staff and election time staff with some new people coming from outside and due to "friendships" immediately securing better positions, albeit temporary. Some from outside may have been managers or principals but have been poor AEC leaders.

3/ You should also consider leadership and related training for DROs. This is critical, as, to a lesser degree, is how to deal with people.

"X whether the current arrangements meet career expectations for AEC officers;

1/ the staff whom I know are not happy but it is up to them to respond albeit unless they are advised that they can do so and with anonymity they will be too scared for their jobs especially if Howard wins and his IR virus infects more areas of employment

2/ I would love to do more than "just" OIC at election time; I would also love the chance for a full time position "V could persons like me be trained as DROs? Or at least as electoral educators?

3/ where does a truly great DRO go in the corporate structure?

"X whether the current arrangements meet community expectations about the appropriate use of staffing resources;

1/ see above;

2/ tax payers want value for money so why can't the states and AEC work together?

"X what any change to these arrangements would mean for the previous two points;

"X what level of staffing would be required to meet ongoing habitation reviews;

"X whether the current APS staffing levels are appropriate for the actual work of divisional offices; and

"X any other issues relating to the staffing of divisional and central offices which may be raised in submission or by the committee.

1/ THE AEC should also have considerably more teachers working on electoral education projects, some with the states and state parliaments thus shared costs; but this is absolutely critical to promote Civics and Citizenship, albeit in at least one position a few years back a senior person in such a role obtained the position due to marriage (or so I was told by two DROs)

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2/ you should also be asking retired DROs who have nothing to fear what they think since I know of many an issue raised over the years but ignored or killed by others higher up, and yet those others did not have electoral experience.

The Hon Gary Nairn MP, Special Minister of State, has asked the committee to include the following in the terms of reference to the inquiry:

„X the continuing relevance of the National Tally Room to members of parliament, candidates, political parties, the media, and the general public;

1/ do not even think about getting rid of it; we love watching it; it is important to the visible working of the democratic process

2/ I am unaware but is it available on line?

„X the possible alternatives to the National Tally Room flowing from advances in computer and telecommunications technologies, such as the Australian Electoral Commission's web-based Virtual Tally Room, and; the logistics, risks and cost of providing the National Tally room.

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