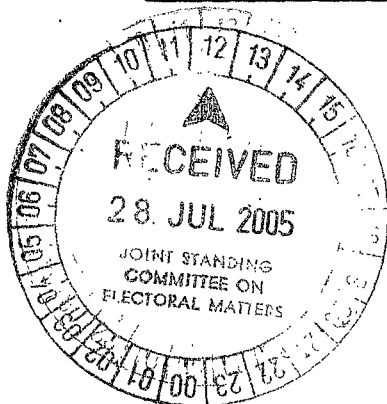


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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SUBMISSION 174



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Professor Doug McEachern

PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH & INNOVATION)

19 July 2005

Mr Tony Smith, MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	174
Date Received	28/7/05
Secretary	SD

Dear Mr Smith

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, Access to Electoral Roll 90B(4) and 91A(2A)(a)

In 2004, the regulations governing access to the Australian Electoral Register were amended. Following this amendment, access to the electoral roll for the purposes of drawing survey samples for academic research was significantly restricted by the Australian Electoral Commission.

The Australian National University has recently made a submission to the *Inquiry into the 2004 Federal Election and Matters Related Thereto*. Through their submission, they sought to inform the Joint Standing Committee about the impact of these restrictions on academic research, and to request that the Committee consider the reinstatement of access to electronically delivered samples derived from the Australian Electoral Roll for non-commercial, public interest research in universities.

The University of Western Australia supports the submission made by the Australian National University.

Yours sincerely

Professor Doug McEachern
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)