



Roundtable on changes to improve electoral procedures

Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee will hold a Roundtable hearing on **Monday, 16 July 2012 from 10.00am to 12.00pm in Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**, as part of its review of the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Improving Electoral Procedure) Bill 2012.

The Committee will hear from the Australian Electoral Commission and other interested groups on key aspects of the Bill.

The Bill implements the Government's response to recommendations 12, 31 and 32 of the committee's report entitled *The 2010 Federal Election: Report on the conduct of the election and related matters*. The changes will involve:

- removing the prescription relating to how postal votes are currently processed and allowing for the automated issuing of postal voting packages; and
- increasing the sum to be deposited by or on behalf of a person nominated as a Senator from \$1 000 to \$2 000, and as a Member of the House of Representatives from \$500 to \$1 000.

The Bill also contains provisions to:

- increase the number of nominators required by a candidate for the Senate or the House of Representatives who has not been nominated by a registered political party from 50 to 100 electors;
- require unendorsed candidates for the Senate who have made a request to be grouped to each be nominated by 100 unique electors;
- amend the reference to 'unsound mind' and introduce a requirement to obtain a letter or certificate from a 'qualified person' with respect to a person's capacity to vote; and
- make a number of minor and technical amendments.

Stakeholders, members of the public and interested groups have been invited to make **submissions to the inquiry by Friday, 13 July 2012**.

The Bill, Explanatory Memorandum and information on the inquiry are available from the committee's webpage: <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>.

A live webcast will be available at: http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament.

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair, Daryl Melham MP on 02 6277 2054 (Parliament House office) or 02 9774 2111 (Electoral office).

For general information: Contact the secretariat on 02 6277 2374 or jscem@aph.gov.au.