

McGowan, Andrew (REPS)

From: Phil Paterson [philpats@inet.net.au]
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2005 1:52 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: Brief submission to enquiry

I was a volunteer on the Campaign committee for the Hon Julie Bishop MP in the federal seat of Curtin in the 2004 Federal Election.

My main concern with the conduct of the Election was the time delays involved in processing of Postal Vote Applications by the Australian Electoral Commission.

In many cases, particularly those electors who applied early, it took 9 days minimum for ballot papers to be mailed back to them by the AEC from the sole location it was claimed was responsible for handling the whole Australian electorate.

This led to a lot of concern from electors who thought their application must have been misplaced, especially those going overseas some weeks after making their original application. A number of upset electors phoned the electorate and campaign office numbers to complain as they wrongly thought the fault lay with their local Member rather than delays in mailing ballot papers by the AEC.

In future I would suggest this needs addressing, perhaps by having ballot papers sent from offices in each state rather than the claimed sole national outlet.

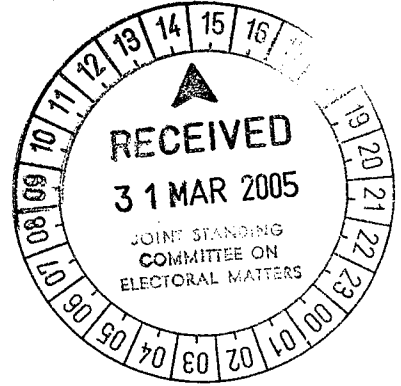
A second problem concerned delays in handling pre-polling at Hollywood Hospital. More AEC staff will be needed next time to reduce the time taken (about 10 or more hours from memory) and reduce stress on patients as well as the AEC staff.

Thanks for the opportunity to make this submission.

Phil Paterson.

My contact numbers are mobile 0417 987 193 or 08 9384 5238 or email if there are any queries.

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| Secretary | <i>[Signature]</i> |