

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission
Outcome/Program: 1.2
Topic: Registered Officers

Senator: Rhiannon

Question reference number: F25

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 93, 19 November 2013

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Question:

There were reports during the election campaign about a number of political parties having the same person as their registered officer. Is this something that you have examined?

Answer:

Section 126(2A) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act) prohibits any person from being counted in the membership sponsoring the registration of more than one political party at a time. There is nothing in the Act that requires a person appointed as the registered officer of a party to be a member of that party, or prevents one person from being the registered officer of more than one party at a time.

At the time of 2013 election the same person was the registered officer for the Liberal Democratic Party and the Outdoor Recreation Party (Stop the Greens).

The AEC is aware of only one other case in recent years where the same person has been the registered officer of more than one political party. The Country Labor Party is a part of the Australian Labor Party (N.S.W. Branch) (however it maintains a separate registration and therefore has its own registered officer) and at various times the same person has been the registered officer of each of those parties.