



**The Hon Mai Brough MP
Special Minister of State
Minister for Defence Materiel and Science**

REF: MC15-003419

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chair – Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Jensen 

Thank you for your letter of 24 November 2015 about petition number 1103/1601 which concerns public access to the electoral roll.

Section 90A of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) requires the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to provide public access to the electoral roll at every divisional office and every capital city office of the AEC. This public access provides for transparency of the roll for electoral purposes.

Subsection 90A(5) of the Electoral Act provides that the right of inspection does not include the right to copy or record by electronic means the roll or a part of the roll. The public version of the roll which is available under s.90A contains name and address information only. Gender and date of birth are not included. The Electoral Act prescribes no other restrictions on this public access, and electors are provided information about public access to the roll when completing an enrolment form.

The former Special Minister of State referred the matter of public access to the roll to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM). In its report into the 2013 federal election, the JSCEM recommended that the AEC monitor the use of the Public Access Terminals (PATs) at each AEC office with a view to Parliament determining whether any further changes are required to s.90A of the Electoral Act. The Government has not formally responded to this report.

Information on who has access to enrolment information is contained on the AEC website: http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/About_Electoral_Roll/

I trust this information is of assistance to you, and thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MAI BROUGH

18 December 2015