



Public hearing on changes to improve electoral administration

Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee will hold a public hearing on **Monday, 4 February 2013 from 3.00pm to 5.00pm in Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**, as part of its review of the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Improving Electoral Administration) 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 3, 9, 10, 11, 15, 29 and 30 of the committee's report entitled *The 2010 Federal Election: Report on the conduct of the election and related matters*. The provisions in the Bill will:

- set out the procedures to be followed when a ballot-box is opened prematurely, that is, before the close of the poll, other than in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Electoral Act and Referendum Act;
- require ballot papers included in a ballot-box that is opened prematurely to be excluded from scrutiny;
- remove the requirement under the Electoral Act and Referendum Act for an applicant for a pre-poll ordinary vote to complete and sign a certificate;
- provide that pre-poll voting cannot commence earlier than 4 days after the date fixed for declaration of nominations for any type of election or by-election;
- brings forward the deadline for applications for postal votes by one day from the Thursday before polling day to the Wednesday before polling day;
- provide for further fixed periods of time to be provided to the augmented Electoral Commission (as defined in section 70 of the Electoral Act) to complete its inquiries into objections against proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries;
- amend the Taxation Administration Act to allow the Commissioner of Taxation and other taxation officers to provide some forms of taxpayer information to the Australian Electoral Commission for the purposes of administering the Electoral Act and Referendum Act; and
- make a number of related minor and technical amendments.

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.