



---

## **Review of Bill that proposes new enrolment powers for the AEC**

Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee will review the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Protecting Elector Participation) Bill 2012, which was introduced into the House this week.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) estimates that around 1.5 million eligible Australians are missing from the electoral roll and consequently cannot exercise their voting franchise.

The major focus of the Bill is to extend the AEC's enrolment functions. This will mean that adding someone to the electoral roll will no longer have to be initiated by an application from the elector, and can be done based on data received from sources outside the AEC.

The Explanatory Memorandum outlines the objectives of the Bill as amending the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* to:

- allow the Electoral Commissioner to directly enrol a person if satisfied that the person is entitled to enrolment, has lived at an address for at least one month and the person is not enrolled;
- require the Electoral Commissioner to inform the person that the Electoral Commissioner is proposing to enrol the person at a particular address;
- require the Electoral Commissioner to inform the person that the Electoral Commissioner has enrolled the person at a particular address;
- allow the Electoral Commissioner to admit certain declaration votes to the scrutiny;
- allow the Electoral Commissioner to enrol certain persons who have cast declaration votes and who had been removed from the roll; and
- make a number of minor and technical amendments.

This Bill gives effect to recommendations 1 and 24 in the committee's report entitled *The 2010 Federal Election: Report on the conduct of the election and related matters*.

The Chair of the committee, Daryl Melham MP, said the committee will examine the adequacy of the Bill in achieving its policy objectives.

Stakeholders, members of the public and interested groups are invited to make **submissions to the inquiry by Friday, 24 February 2012**.

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

**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](mailto:jscem@aph.gov.au).