

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: AEC
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Resignations and appointments

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F290

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. What was the date of resignation of the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Killesteyn?
2. What was the date of resignation of the Australian Electoral Officer for Western Australia, Mr Kramer?
3. Has a new Australian Electoral Officer for Western Australia been appointed?
 - a) If so, on what date and is this a permanent or acting appointment?
4. Is the expected date of appointment of a new Electoral Commissioner still 4 July 2014, as advised by the Special Minister of State at the 2013-2014 Additional Estimates hearing?
 - a) If not, what has caused a change to this expected timeline?
5. Why was the resignation of the Electoral Commissioner and the Australian Electoral Officer for Western Australia not announced by way of media release on the Australian Electoral Commission website?

Answer:

1. 27 June 2014.
2. 9 May 2014.
3. The provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act) require that an Australian Electoral Officer (AEO) shall be appointed by the Governor-General. No appointment has yet been made by the Governor-General to replace the previous AEO for Western Australia. However, section 31 of the Act requires an Assistant AEO for the States to act for the AEO for that State during a vacancy in that office or during any period when the AEO for that State is absent from duty. The Electoral Commission appointed Ms Kathy Mitchell as the Assistant AEO for WA under subsection 31(1) of the Act so that she became the AEO for WA from 3 March 2014.
4. This is not within the remit of the Australian Electoral Commission.
5. The resignations of both the Electoral Commissioner and the Australian Electoral Officer for Western Australia were submitted to the Governor-General, as required. The resignation of both the Electoral Commissioner and the Australian Electoral Officer for Western Australia were announced by Special Minister of State, as the portfolio Minister. Both resignations were widely reported in the media.