

**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:** Institute of Public Affairs

**Senator:** Rhiannon  
**Question reference number:** F293  
**Type of question:** Written  
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

1. Is the AEC aware that the Institute of Political Affairs is frequently described as an influential free-market think tank well-connected within the Liberal Party?
2. Is the AEC aware that the website for Robert Menzies in Office at the National Archives of Australia <http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/primeministers/menzies/in-office.aspx> documents the role the IPA played in setting up the Liberal Party?
3. Considering an associated entity under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (s287) means an entity: "that operates wholly or to a significant extent for the benefit of one or more registered political parties" has the AEC determined the Institute of Political Affairs to be an EA?
4. If the IPA is not an EA did the AEC rely on information supplied by the IPA to reach that decision?
5. Did the AEC undertake any investigations of the IPA to determine if it is an EA?
6. If the IPA has not been listed as an EA what determined that decision?

**Answer:**

1. The AEC is aware of some media reports about IPA.
2. No.
3. No.
4. No.
5. No.
6. The AEC has not made any determination under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* with respect to the IPA.