

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: Multiple voting

Senator: Smith

Question reference number: F92

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 116, 29 May 2014

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SMITH: I would like to focus on the 2,013 electors who voted at the September 2013 election to look at the reasons or the justifications they gave for multiple voting. We are agreed that, for a variety of reasons, some people may multiple vote but, in all good faith, we cannot—

Mr Rogers: It is a genuine issue.

Senator SMITH: They would be the categories that you internally use: the age category, the confused category, the incorrect advice category, the poor comprehension category, the postal vote did not arrive on time category, and the provisional vote category. In my calculation, that adds up to 1,858 of the 2,013. There are 155 people who fall into the following categories: they were trying out the system, which is your category. Explain that to me.

Ms Neilson: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) assigned the code 'trying out the system' to categorise cases of multiple voting that required further investigation. The code was used to describe multiple voting cases in which the elector made admissions to the AEC that they intentionally cast multiple votes in an attempt to test the integrity of the system.

For the 2013 election there were three cases that were identified with the above code.