

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
27-28 May 2015

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Enquiry Into Electoral Matters

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F85

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

On the 22nd of May, it was reported in the Herald Sun (pg3) that Senator Ronaldson had asked the Federal Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters to investigate rules and practices at polling places.

1. Would the Special Minister of State be able to elaborate on the community concerns that were raised with him about the conduct of campaigners at polling places?
 - a) Please provide details of any occasions where these concerns have been raised?
 - b) Who raised these concerns?
 - c) How many times has the minister been contacted with regard to this issue?
2. Is the Minister exploring any other avenues for reform in this area? IF yes, please provide further details?
3. Has the Minister or his office contacted the AEC to discuss these reforms? If yes:
 - a) Please provide details about these interactions.
 - b) What views have been expressed by the AEC representatives?
4. Has the Minister or his office consulted with parliamentary colleagues with regard to this enquiry? If yes:
 - a) Please provide details about these interactions?
 - b) What views have been expressed by parliamentary colleagues?
5. Has the Minister or his office consulted with the Senate Cross Bench with regard to this enquiry? If yes:
 - a) Please provide details about these interactions?

- b) What views have been expressed by the Cross Bench?
6. The article mentioned the Minister's concern over union representatives and their actions during Election Day activities. Is the Minister concerned about any non-union groups as well or does he see this enquiry as focusing purely or at least primarily on union activity? If yes:
- a) Does the minister believe other community groups such as churches should be investigated, should their members be involved in Election Day activities? Please detail.
7. Does the Minister believe unions or their members should be banned from certain political activities that they are currently allowed to participate in? If yes:
- a) Which activities and why?
8. Does the Minister believe any other community groups should also be banned from these activities? If yes: which ones and why? If no, why not?

Answer:

1. – 2. The AEC cannot answer.
3. No.
4. – 8. The AEC cannot answer.