

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

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Discrepancies over returns (Altum and others)

Senator: Rhiannon

Question reference number: F5

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Wednesday, 31 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In May, amended returns were posted on the AEC website for Altum, 6 St Paul's Terrace Trust, and LNP Nominees – all associated entities linked to the LNP in Queensland. These returns showed that the original documents contained millions of dollars in discrepancies, with a \$100 million discrepancy in the case of Altum. Had the AEC reviewed the initial returns?

Answer:

Yes. The AEC's practice is to review disclosure returns after they are received on a preliminary basis and again during the course of a compliance investigation conducted pursuant to a notice issued under s.316(2A) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act). The amendments to the disclosure returns lodged by these associated entities were generated as a result of findings raised by the AEC following investigations of those returns conducted as part of the AEC's ongoing compliance activities under s.316(2A) of the Act.