

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

Finance Portfolio
20 October 2015

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Additional pre-poll centres– numbers and distribution

Senator: Smith

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Question:

Senator SMITH: ... Is it also looking at increasing the locations where people can vote before election day?

Mr Rogers: I can find those stats in detail for you later but I can tell you as an indicative number that I think we are planning on about 30 more prepoll centres around Australia for the next election.

Senator SMITH: And you will be able to give me that information on a state-by-state basis?

Mr Rogers: Yes.

Senator SMITH: I would be interested in knowing whether or not they are metropolitan or larger, regional seats. I do not expect them to be small regional towns.

Answer:

As at 5 November 2015, the overall increase in pre-poll voting centres (PPVCs) from the 2013 federal election to the next federal election is 11 centres. In some divisions, there has been a reduction in the number of PPVCs while in others there has been an increase. This is based on the local assessment of services from the previous event and takes into consideration the expected volume of voters accessing services at the next election. The AEC will continue to refine its planning for the next election and this may lead to a further variation in PPVC numbers. The details of pre-poll voting centres are published to the AEC website after an election is announced.

The table below provides a comparison of the PPVCs operating at 2013 to the planned PPVCs for the next federal election (as at 5 November 2015).

State/Territory	2013 federal election	Next federal election
NSW	184	186
Vic	118	124
Qld	200	203
WA	52	38
SA	47	62
Tas	14	14
ACT	11	11
NT	19	18
Total	645	656