

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: AEC's referral of matters to the DPP – numbers and briefings

Senator: Rhiannon

Question reference number: F16

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 54, 20 October 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. How frequently does the AEC refer matters to the Commonwealth DPP for investigation?

...

Mr Pirani: For the last financial year, the answer is zero to AFP. As I said, because of our powers under section 316, we conduct the investigation, we do the compliance review and we prepare the brief to DPP.

Senator RHIANNON: If it is zero for the last financial year, how many is it over the last five years?

Mr Pirani: I would have to take that on notice, but I would suspect the answer will be nil again, because we have an MOU with the AFP, and most of the matters in the funding and disclosure area are dealt with by us, by our investigators.

...

Senator RHIANNON: Can you provide data on how many briefs you have prepared for the DPP.

Mr Pirani: Certainly on notice I will give you an indication of the numbers that we have referred to DPP, yes.

Answer:

In relation to funding and disclosure matters:

- No referrals have been made by the Commission to the AFP since 20 October 2010.
- No briefs to the DPP have been prepared by the Commission since 20 October 2014.
- A total of 17 briefs have been prepared by the Commission for the DPP over the last 5 years since 20 October 2010:
 - Ten briefs were prepared in April 2014 in relation to failure to furnish a 2013 federal election candidate return
 - Four briefs were prepared in June 2012 in relation to failure to furnish a 2010–11 donor disclosure return
 - Three briefs were prepared in June 2011 in relation to failure to furnish a 2010 federal election candidate return.