

**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 individuals to the Australian Federal Police in relation enrolment in the electorate of Indi in 2013

**Senator:** Smith

**Question reference number:** F85

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Two of the individuals are now facing prosecution for providing false or misleading information to the AEC. If it eventuates that those cases are dealt with and concluded without any evidence being presented in open court (i.e. if the individuals do not contest the charges), this would mean that significant and costly investigations and proceedings will have been conducted by at least three federal agencies and the court system without a single piece of information or evidence about what happened having been made available to the public.

1. Would you agree that, in such circumstances, it would be incumbent on the AEC to formally report on the matter of what occurred in Indi in 2013 to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters?
2.
  - a) Since the time of the 2013 Federal election, how many voters (in total) who were then on the roll in Indi have:
    - i) manually re-enrolled in another electorate; and
    - ii) been re-enrolled at the AEC's instigation in another electorate?
  - b)
    - i) Aside from the two people who have been, or will be, formally charged with providing false or misleading information to the AEC, how many of the other 26 people originally referred to the AFP still remain on the electoral roll for Indi?
    - ii) Of those among the 26 who no longer remain on the roll for Indi, how many have:
      - aa) manually re-enrolled in another electorate; and
      - bb) been re-enrolled at the AEC's instigation in another electorate?
  - c) Of those among the 26 who no longer remain on the roll for Indi and have manually re-enrolled in another electorate, please indicate the date of their change of enrolment in each case.

3. Prior to the referral in 2014 of the 28 cases in Indi, when was the most recent occasion that cases of potentially false enrolment in that electorate were referred by the AEC to the AFP?
4. Across the history of the electorate of Indi, how many cases in total of potentially false enrolment in the seat have been referred by the AEC to the AFP? (Please indicate the time period to which this data relates.)

**Answer:**

1. It would not be appropriate to comment while the matter is pending.
2.
  - a)
    - i) As at 31 October 2015, a total of 3,740 enrolments have occurred where the elector was enrolled in the Division of Indi at 2013 federal election, and are now enrolled outside Indi, where the enrolment occurred through the actions of the elector.
    - ii) As at 31 October 2015, a total of 4,520 enrolments have occurred where the elector was enrolled in the Division of Indi at the 2013 federal election, and are now enrolled outside Indi, where the enrolment has occurred due to the AEC's direct enrolment and update process.
  - b)
    - i) As at 31 October 2015, of the 26 referred to, nine remain enrolled in Indi.
    - ii)
      - aa) As at 31 October 2015, 11 have enrolled through elector initiated action into a division other than Indi. This is on the basis of the enrolment immediately following the one in Indi, and does not count any subsequent enrolment.
      - bb) As at 31 October 2015, six were enrolled in divisions other than Indi through the operation of the AEC's direct enrolment process. This is on the basis of the enrolment immediately following the one in Indi, and does not count any subsequent enrolment. Of these, none has been a re-enrolment.
  - c) The enrolments have been updated over time from December 2013 to August 2015.
3. The AEC is not aware of any referrals, prior to the 28 cases in 2014, in relation to potentially false enrolment in the Division of Indi.
4. From 2007, the AEC has referred 28 cases of potentially false enrolment in the Division of Indi to the Australian Federal Police, these being in 2014.