

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Federal Police

Question No. BE17-041

Senator Macdonald asked the following question on 25 May 2017:

CHAIR: There were about 200 cases of multiple voting in Herbert but 40 were so serious, according to the AEC, that they referred them. Are you able to tell us, of those that were marked as double voting, whether this occurred within the electorate of Townsville or whether they were declaration votes taken elsewhere?

Ms Close: I would have to take that on notice; I cannot answer that.

Mr Colvin: I think the question is for the Australian Electoral Commission. They understand and analyse the voting patterns. They refer, to us, instances of concern. We do not, necessarily, have the information that you are looking for.

CHAIR: No, I appreciate that. Again, my reason for inquiring of the AFP was just to understand how you looked at those. In the case of Herbert, are you aware that there were about 200 cases but only 42, as you rightly said, appeared to the AEC to be so serious as to warrant police investigation?

Ms Close: No; I will take that on notice, though, to understand exactly how many instances are alleged to have occurred.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

- On 27 July 2016, the AFP received a letter of referral from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) alleging 42 instances of multiple voting in the Division of Herbert in the 2016 Federal Election.
- The AEC is better placed to answer the honourable senator's question in relation to the abovementioned 200 cases.