

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

February Additional Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 17 February 2004

Question: F9

Outcome: Australian Electoral Commission

Topic: Redistribution Enrolment Projections

Hansard Page: F&PA 38

Senator Robert Ray asked:

Had anyone detected that the overall trend, with the exception of Queensland, was always to get it wrong on the minus side?

Answer:

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

The research conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) into the forward projections revealed that the trend was for the projected figure to be higher than the actual enrolment. This is identified in the research paper prepared by the AEC. The AEC and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) are engaged in a project to identify a methodology that will lead to improved projected figures.

Date: 22 March 2004

Cleared by (SES): Andy Becker

Group/Branch: Australian Electoral Commission

Contact Officer: Brien Hallett

Telephone No: 02 6271 4477

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

February Additional Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 17 February 2004

Question: F10

Outcome: Australian Electoral Commission

Topic: Redistribution Enrolment Projections

Hansard Page: F&PA 38

Senator Robert Ray asked:

- (a) When did inquiries start on this?
- (b) What was the motivator for those inquiries?
- (c) What pattern have you found so far?

Answer:

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

- (a) As part of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)'s ongoing research program, a project was initiated in July 2003 that compared the projected enrolment for each redistribution with the actual enrolment. A total of 18 redistributions were studied for the period 1984-1999.
- (b) The AEC believed that the number of redistributions held (18) was adequate to give the AEC sufficient data for research purposes.
- (c) The research found that for the 1999 redistributions (New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania) the State actual enrolment was less than the projected enrolment. This trend was not always reflected for individual divisions (In NSW 39 of the 50 Divisions actual enrolment was less than the projected enrolment). The research also found that there were a number of cases where the deviation from the State quota at the projected time was outside the 3.5% range.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Australian Electoral Commission

February Additional Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 17 February 2004

Question: F11

Outcome: Australian Electoral Commission

Topic: Redistribution Enrolment Projections

Hansard Page: F&PA 39

Senator Robert Ray asked:

Would it be possible to have that (research report) tabled either with this committee or the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters?

Answer:

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

A copy of the report is attached.

Date: 22 March 2004

Cleared by (SES): Andy Becker

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Australian Electoral Commission

February Additional Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 17 February 2004

Question: F12

Outcome: Australian Electoral Commission

Topic: Redistribution Enrolment Projections

Hansard Page: F&PA 40

Senator Robert Ray asked:

When do you expect to be able to come forward with a more accurate predictor?

Answer:

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

The Australian Electoral Commission and the Australian Bureau of Statistics are currently developing and researching a number of demographic models that may produce more reliable forward projections than in the past. The current research indicates that a working model should be available in November 2004.

Date: 22 March 2004

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