

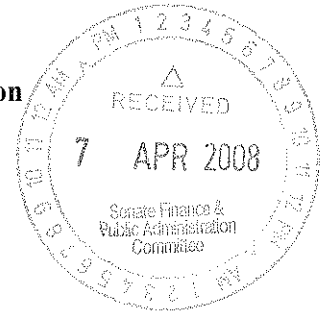
**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Australian Electoral Commission**

**Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008**



**Question: F79**

**Outcome: 2, Output: 2.1.6**

**Topic: Complaints re Australia Post EBA**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 126-127**

**Senator Ronaldson asked:**

Could you take on notice whether there were any complaints made by any of the parties regarding the conduct of the [most recent Australia Post EBA or Union ballot for a strike action] ballot process. Could you also take on notice whether it was reported to you that certain documents were circulated that deliberately misrepresented certain positions.

**Answer:**

In September 2007 a complaint was lodged by Australia Post with the Australian Industrial Relations Commission alleging that union members were being asked to bring their ballot papers to a series of union meetings, thereby making the inference that Section 821 of the Workplace Relations Act 1996 would be contravened.

Australia Post sought urgent orders from the Australian Industrial Relations Commission that the CEPU immediately inform its members that they were not to bring ballot papers to work or to any union meetings or to show their ballot papers to any other person; that the CEPU cancel certain scheduled meetings; and that the Industrial Registrar and his staff attend the State offices of the Communications Division of the CEPU to ensure that no meetings are planned to which employees are encouraged or directed to bring their ballot papers.

The complaint was dealt with by Vice President Lawler of the Industrial Relations Commission on 18 September 2007. At that hearing, Vice President Lawler concluded that the orders sought by Australia Post would not be issued.