

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010

Australian Electoral Commission

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Outcome 2, Program 2.1.5**

**Topic: Protected Action Ballot costs**

**Question reference number: F40a & 40b**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 80, 9 February 2010**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator Ryan asked:**

Mr Killesteyn, I would like to ask some questions about various industrial ballots the AEC conducts. In May last year, in answer to a question, the AEC indicated that the total cost of protected action ballots for 2008-09 is expected to be \$432,000, GST exclusive. Is that in line with the final outcome?

**Mr Killesteyn**—I will take on notice the final outcome for the financial year, but I would expect that that figure would be pretty close to the final outcome.

**Senator RYAN**—I imagine there are a few of these that you will have to take on notice, so feel free to indicate if that is the case. Could you also indicate what you are budgeting for in 2009-10? I would also be interested in the answers to these questions, if you can answer them: the total number of ballots for industrial elections and for protected action ballots in 2008-09; how many non-union industrial elections the AEC funded in 2008-09, because there are different types of employee and employer associations that I understand you undertake; and how many protected action ballots you funded in 2008-09.

**Mr Killesteyn**—We will take those on notice.

**Answer:**

The final amount invoiced for protected action ballots (PABs) in 2008-09 was \$466,809. PABs activity has increased in 2009-10 with \$772,270 invoiced to 31 January 2010. Based on this trend the AEC is now forecasting a total amount of \$1.148m for the 2009-10 financial year.

The total number of industrial elections conducted in 2008-09 was 347. The number of PABs conducted was 230. The AEC conducted 125 non-union industrial elections in 2008-09, representing 36% of the total industrial elections conducted in that year.