Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission
Outcome/Program: 1/1.2
Topic: Online Returns

Senator: Rhiannon
Question reference number: F74
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Question:

At the last round of estimates we discussed new options for parties, candidates and donors to submit their returns online. I was interested in how this is proceeding and how popular this option was for submitting the return for 2010-11.

Answer:

The following table sets out the details of the use of the online eReturns portal for lodging the different types of returns that are required to be given to the National Office of the AEC in Canberra. The figure in the brackets is the percentage of eReturns and Amendments when compared with the total number of returns and amendments of returns received by the AEC.

2010/2011 Annual Returns
- **Parties:** 27 eReturns & 4 Amendments out of a total of 67 Returns & 9 Amendments (40% & 44%)
- **Entities:** 86 eReturns & 3 Amendments out of a total of 193 Returns & 5 Amendments (45% & 60%)
- **Donors:** 175 eReturns & 4 Amendments out of a total of 337 Returns & 5 Amendments (52% & 80%)
- **3rd Parties:** 20 eReturns out of a total of 43 returns (47%)

2009/2010 Annual Returns
- **Parties:** 25 eReturns & 1 Amendment out of a total of 62 Returns & 27 Amendments (40% & 4%)
- **Entities:** 79 eReturns & 4 Amendments out of a total of 201 Returns & 17 Amendments (39% & 24%)
- **Donors:** 74 eReturns out of a total of 200 Returns (37%)
- **3rd Parties:** 10 eReturns out of a total of 35 returns (29%)

2010 Federal Election
- **Candidates:** 599 eReturns out of a total of 1192 Returns (50%)
- **Senate Groups:** 10 eReturns out of a total of 22 Returns (45%)
- **Election Donors:** 7 eReturns out of a total of 7 Returns (100%)