

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2008**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Australian Electoral Commission**



**Outcome 1, Output 1.1.1**

**Topic: Electoral Roll Management Costs**

**Question reference number: F53**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 17, 29 May 2008**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008**

**Number of Pages: 2**

**Senator MURRAY asked:**

This is a huge increase, [in electoral roll management costs] though, from \$35.1 million to \$49.8 million. I am not suggesting that it is not proper. It just seems to me unusual. Are you saying that it is similar to the years that have followed election years on previous occasions? Do you have the comparative figures for that?

**Answer:**

The AEC reported increased enrolment-related expenses in previous electoral cycles as evidenced by the following:

	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08 (PBS)	08-09 (PBS)
	Event	Post	Pre	Event	Post	Pre	Event	Post
<b>Electoral Roll Management</b>	32.1m	48.6m	58.1m	34.6m	53.6m	74.7m	35.1m	49.8m

The AEC changed its output structure from the 2007-08 Budget onwards. As a result of this change the former Outputs 1.1.1 (Electoral roll management), 1.1.2 (Electoral roll updates (RMANS)) and 1.1.3 (Roll products and services) were combined. The figures in the table above are therefore the sum of the former Outputs disclosed in the financial statements in the relevant annual report. The figures do not include the Special Appropriation or revenue from independent sources.

In addition to combining Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3, a new Output 3.1.3 *Communications strategies and services* was created. Previously, communications activities were included in Outcome 1 (Enrolment) or Outcome 2 (Elections) as appropriate. If the enrolment-related amounts from Output 3.1.3 were included in the Outcome 1 estimates for 2007-08 and 2008-09 shown in the PBS, the amounts would be higher. In the case of 2008-09 (the current Budget year), the amount would be approximately \$55 million (compared to the published \$49.8 million).

The amount shown in the table above for 2006-07 is higher than other years as it includes costs associated with changes to proof of identity for enrolment and the AEC's efforts to bring the roll up to date in the lead up to the 2007 election.

