

## Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

#### Outcome 1, Program 2

Topic: Industrial Elections

Question reference number: F80

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 85, 27 May 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

In the previous PBS we could see the specific expenditure on industrial elections, couldn't we?

**Answer:**

The Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) outcome structure will change from 2010-11 in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Finance and Deregulation's project to streamline external reporting structures. Thus, from 2010-2011, the AEC's external reporting will be consistent with that of all other Commonwealth agencies with expenses of less than \$500m per annum. This means the external reporting regarding the AEC contained in Portfolio Budget Statements 2010-11 (PBS) will not include expenditure lower than at the program level.

The AEC continues to measure costs associated with industrial elections and Torres Strait Regional Authority elections. It is estimated the expenditure on industrial and Torres Strait Regional Authority elections for 2010-11 will be approximately \$6.6m. (This compares with \$5.723m in 2009-10). This expenditure is included as part of the total estimated expenses of \$96.251m, under **Program 1.2: Election Management and Support Services**, Departmental expenses, Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1) as outlined in **Table 2.1: Budgeted Expenses and Resources for Outcome 1** of the PBS 2010-11.