Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: 1/1.2

Topic: Shenglong Australia, Shangjin Lin and Yi Lin – Donors to ALP

Senator: Abetz

Question reference number: F65 (a) and (b)

Type of question: Hansard F&PA 73-74, 26 May 2011

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question (a):

Senator Abetz asked the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) if anybody is aware of donations received by the Australian Labor Party (ALP) from Shenglong (Australia) Investments Group Pty Ltd of \$100,000, Shangjin Lin of \$50,000 and Yi Lin for \$50,000? Whether those entities or people have lodged returns and what steps have been taken to trace the donors, and so on?

Question (b):

Did the AEC send letters to those three entities?

Answer (a) and (b):

The 2009-10 Political Party Disclosure Return lodged by the ALP National Secretariat dated 20 October 2010 disclosed that the above three donations were received from entities or persons with addresses at 2808/19 Railway Street Chatswood and 204/29 Anderson Street Chatswood. The AEC has not received Donor Disclosure Returns from any entity or person in relation to the above three donations despite the amounts disclosed in the ALP return being above the disclosure threshold. In accordance with normal administrative practice, the AEC sent an obligation letter, a reminder letter and a Failure to Lodge letter to all three donors to the addresses listed on the ALP return. None of the AEC letters have been returned to sender.

The lack of any response to the various AEC letters led to further inquiries being undertaken including obtaining a full Australian Securities Investment Commission (ASIC) company search. The results of the ASIC search identified postal addresses for Shenglong (Australia) Investments Group Pty Ltd and Yi Lin both being 2808/9 Railway Street Chatswood (i.e. not the 2808/19 listed on the ALP return). As Shangjin Lin was listed on the ALP return as having the same contact address as Yi Lin, the AEC had formed the preliminary view that this person may be contacted at the same address. The ASIC search also indicated that the

address for the receipt of correspondence by Shenglong (Australia) Investments Group Pty Ltd under section 146A of the *Corporations Act 2001* is PO Box 348 Eastwood.

Accordingly, the AEC sent further reminder letters with a copy of the Failure to Lodge letter attached to all three donors to the postal address for Shenglong (Australia) Investments Group Pty Ltd at 2808/9 Railway Street Chatswood and also to PO Box 348 Eastwood.

The AEC is awaiting a response to the further letters at this time.