

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: Documents lodged with the AEC by the Member for Dobell

Senator: Ronaldson

Question reference number: F66

Type of question: Hansard F&PA, Page 81, 26 May 2011

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator Ronaldson asked the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) whether there has been any documentation filed by Mr Craig Thomson, the Member for Dobell, with the AEC that could possibly trigger action under Division 137.2 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* which contains an offence for a person who knowingly provides a Commonwealth officer with a document that is false or misleading in a material particular.

Answer:

As was indicated in the evidence given at the hearing, for candidates who are endorsed by political parties, the general practice is that they appoint an agent who is responsible for lodging any candidate's return that is required to be lodged with the AEC under Division 4 of Part XX of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. In the case of the Member for Dobell, an *Appointment of Candidate Agent* form was lodged with the AEC at the time of his nomination as a candidate in October 2007. That agent lodged the required candidate's return for the 2007 election. Accordingly, there is no document in the possession of the AEC which was filed by Mr Thomson that relates to the allegations made in the *Sydney Morning Herald* about expenditure incurred by Mr Thomson in the leadup to the 2007 election.