

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Australian Electoral Commission

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

Outcome 1, Program 1.2

Topic: The number of overseas Australian Defence Forces personnel that cast a vote at the 2007 election.

Question reference number: F26

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Senator Cormann asked:

Senator CORMANN—So that is 1,807 out of 1,855?

Mr Killesteyn—That is correct.

Senator CORMANN—How does that compare with the previous election in 2007?

Mr Killesteyn—I do not have that information available. I will take it on notice.

Answer:

In 2010, in cooperation with the Department of Defence, five mobile polling teams were deployed overseas. Of the 2,694 Australian Defence Forces personnel who were deployed overseas in areas where mobile polling services were provided, 1,855 were registered to vote, 1,777 cast a vote with a mobile polling team and another 30 lodged a postal vote. In total 1,807 of the 1,855 registered personnel lodged a vote with the mobile teams.

Overseas defence mobile polling was not in place for the 2007 election. For 2007, following recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) after the 2004 election, an electronic voting trial was conducted for selected Australian Defence Force personnel serving overseas. The *JSCEM Report on the 2007 federal election electronic voting trials* noted on page 30 that:

“At the 2007 federal election, of a potential pool of around 2,500 participants eligible to utilise remote electronic voting and around 3,500 personnel deployed overseas, 1,740 votes were cast (1,511 electronically, 212 postal vote and 17 using another type of vote).”