

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: Acting for the benefit of more than one party

Question reference number: F85

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Abetz asked:

I am interested in the circumstances in which an associated entity might act for the benefit of more than one Party. Clearly the CEA allows for such circumstances.

- a) Has the AEC come across any other cases, besides GetUp!, where it has been alleged that an entity is acting for the benefit of more than one Party?
- b) Could trade unions which financially support both Labor and the Greens be considered to be associated entities?

Answer:

(a) Yes, it has been alleged that a donor in Victoria who made donations to both the Liberal Party and the Australian Labor Party was an associated entity.

(b) The issue of financial support is not determinative in the test of an “associated entity” contained in subsection 287(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.