

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: Relevance of resources used by an “entity”

Question reference number: F89

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Abetz asked:

- a) With regard to the issue of determining whether or not an organisation is an associated entity, would the AEC normally take into consideration the amount of resources such an organisation directs to campaigning at elections, as opposed to campaigning on issues in non-election periods?
- b) Is the AEC aware that, according to its 2007-08 Annual Report, it appears 62% of GetUp’s expenditure was for “electoral” purposes and only 38% on other issues based campaigns?

Answer:

(a) No. The test in subsection 287(1)(b) of the definition of an “associated entity” does not distinguish between activities undertaken in a election period as opposed to activities undertaken at other times to establish whether the entity “is an entity that operates wholly, or to a significant extent, for the benefit of one or more registered political parties”.

(b) Yes. But this is not determinative of whether or not GetUp Limited “is an entity that operates wholly, or to a significant extent, for the benefit of one or more registered political parties”.