



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Mary Porter AM MLA (Chair), Mick Gentleman MLA (Deputy Chair), Vicki Dunne MLA

Voting Age Eligibility in the ACT – Electoral Participation for 16 and 17 year olds?

Terms of Reference:

At its meeting on Wednesday, 29 March 2006, the Assembly passed the following resolution:

“That this Assembly:

1. notes some support for the establishment of a scheme which allows 16 and 17 year old ACT residents to vote in elections and referendums for the ACT Legislative Assembly; and
2. refers the proposal to the Standing Committee on Education, Training and Young People for inquiry and report back to the Assembly on or before the 1 October 2007.”

Scope of Inquiry:

Issues which have been identified as having a bearing on the electoral participation of young people include:

- ≡ national conformity and consistency with other jurisdictions;
- ≡ the legal implications of compulsory enrolment and voting for young people;
- ≡ eligibility for election to the ACT Legislative Assembly;
- ≡ resource implications of extending and maintaining the ACT electoral roll;
- ≡ issues affecting the electoral awareness of young people;
- ≡ different electoral models; and
- ≡ other factors that influence the democratic participation of young people.