



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Mr Braddock MLA: To ask the Electoral Commissioner

ACT Electoral Commission

Hearing Date: 25 July 2023

In relation to: Risk assessment on Overseas Internet Voting

From the JACS Committee inquiry into the 2020 election, Recommendation 7 was that “The Committee recommends that ACT Government assess the benefits and risks of providing an online voting system for overseas voters outside periods of public health emergency, and report to the Assembly by March 2022.” The Electoral Commission supported this recommendation and the Government agreed to it in principle.

Has a risk assessment into overseas internet voting been conducted, and can any report and/or conclusions of that risk assessment please be provided?

Damian Cantwell AM CSC : The answer to the Member’s question is as follows: –

The ACT Electoral Commission has established the Electoral Integrity Advisory Panel (EIAP) to examine the security and integrity of the Overseas e-voting system (OSEV), in the first instance.

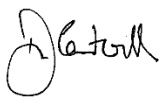
EIAP membership consists of experts in the field internet voting and cyber-security, including representatives from federal agencies, academics, vendors, ACT public service and the ACT Electoral Commission.

The EIAP provides an independent forum for the enhanced understanding by the ACT Electoral Commission of the challenges and opportunities related to electoral integrity in the current and future electoral environment in the ACT. The overall goal of the EIAP is to enhance the electoral integrity of the ICT enabled electoral systems used by Elections ACT, as a key measure by the ACT Electoral Commission in maintaining public confidence and trust in election outcomes in the ACT.

The EIAP remains in operation and is yet to finalise its recommendations to the ACT Electoral Commission in relation to the OSEV system.

The Electoral Commission will publicly announce its OSEV deployment decision once it has appropriately considered the EIAP’s advice. This is expected to occur on or before October 2023.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 7 August 2023

By the ACT Electoral Commissioner, Damian Cantwell AM CSC