



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on 9 November 2022: Mr Damian Cantwell, AM CSC Electoral Commissioner took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 9 November 2022 [PAGE 174]

In relation to:

MR BRADDOCK: Under the Electoral Act political parties are required to have 100 members. Is the Electoral Commission going to undertake a compliance audit of political parties prior to the 2024 election?

Mr Cantwell: Yes.

MR BRADDOCK: Is there a timeframe for that activity?

Mr Cantwell: On a schedule, I will have to check with Ro, but, yes, it is fundamental to the compliance checks before we embark upon the political process or the process for elections, but Ro, the timeline?

Mr Spence: 2023.

MR BRADDOCK: Is there a requirement of how to demonstrate membership of a party?

Mr Cantwell: Yes. Yes, there is a requirement, and that requirement is made aware to the party secretaries and secretaries with whom we engage. We will conduct that as we have for previous elections and we will audit that and make sure that is valid as best we can and make decisions accordingly.

THE CHAIR: Could you confirm, I think, is it, ACT has the lowest minimum number of members in all the jurisdictions around Australia or one of the lowest, or established of a party?

Mr Cantwell: Look, I do not think that is accurate, but if you wish, I can do some research on that across our jurisdictions and advise you.

THE CHAIR: That would be very helpful, thank you.

[Statutory office]: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT has the equal lowest minimum number of members for political party registration across Australian jurisdictions.

The ACT and Tasmania both require a minimum of 100 members whose name and address are on their respective electoral rolls.

The Northern Territory and South Australia require 200 members.

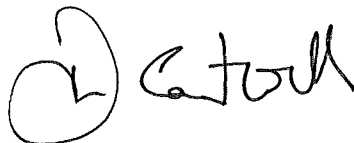
Victoria and Western Australia require 500 members.

NSW requires 750 members.

Federally the requirement is 1500 if the party does not hold any parliamentary representation.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date: 18 November 2022

By the ACT Electoral Commissioner, Mr Damian Cantwell, AM CSC