



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mrs Giulia Jones MLA (Chair), Ms Bec Cody MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA,
Mr Chris Steel MLA

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual reports

Responses to questions taken on notice at public hearing of 6 November 2017

ACT Electoral Commissioner



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GIULIA JONES MLA (CHAIR), BEC CODY MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ELIZABETH LEE MLA, CHRIS STEEL MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
6 November 2017



Asked by Ms Cody MLA and Ms Jones MLA:

In relation to:

With the postal survey that is currently happening about same sex marriage, what impact did that have on enrolments in the ACT?

Are you able to take on notice the increase in numbers that occurred in the ACT during that period?

ACT Electoral Commissioner: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Between the date of the announcement of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey on 8 August 2017 and the close of rolls event in relation to the survey on 24 August 2017, an additional 3,045 electors were added to the ACT electoral roll. This reflects an increase of 1.1%.

Nationally, the Commonwealth roll increased by 91,257 electors, representing an increase of 0.6%.

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

Signature:

Date: 14 Nov 17

By the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Damian Cantwell AM



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Asked by Mr Hanson MLA:

In relation to:

Part of [the redistribution] process is to go to the ABS, get some data and then that informs where you are going. Is that provision of information from the ABS within the two-year period leading up to the election? Is it within the mandated period or can you get that data when you like?

ACT Electoral Commissioner: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The data used to support the redistribution committee's electoral boundary determination can be sought outside of the mandated redistribution period.

The *Electoral Act 1992* provides for a redistribution process to start as soon as practicable after the third Saturday in October, two years prior to an ACT Legislative Assembly election. The next redistribution will commence soon after 20 October 2018.

While the initial step in this official process is the establishment of a redistribution committee, it is common practice for the Electoral Commission to seek the required statistical data from the various relevant agencies, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics, prior to the establishment of the official committee.

In preparation for the most recent redistribution in 2014, the ACT Electoral Commission commenced this engagement in June 2014. The Australian Bureau of Statistics provided the relevant data in September 2014. This data was considered by the Redistribution Committee at their first meeting held on 27 October 2014.



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