

ELECTORAL COMMISSION — STAFF — NEUTRALITY

109. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Electoral Affairs:

My question without notice of which some notice has been given is to my favourite parliamentary secretary!

I refer to the policies and procedures applied by the Western Australian Electoral Commission in relation to employees, whether casual or permanent, and political neutrality.

- (1) Will the minister please table any relevant document, procedure, guideline or instruction in relation to the expectation of employees and political neutrality?
- (2) Can a person be engaged by the commission if they were previously employed by a member of Parliament or a cabinet minister, or they are or previously have been a member of a political party?
- (3) Will the minister please table all correspondence between the commission and any other person in relation to the formation or operation of the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform?
- (4) Does the Electoral Commissioner consider the extraordinarily short period of time for public submissions to be suitable, given the significant and complex nature of the review?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank my fourth-favourite Nationals WA member for some notice of the question!

- (1)–(2) Employees of the Western Australian Electoral Commission are expected to complete “Form 1—Declaration by Officer” and comply with the commission’s code of conduct concerning declarations of a conflict of interest. I table a copy of both documents.

[See paper [189](#).]

- (3)–(4) The Western Australian Electoral Commission was not involved in the formation or appointment of the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform nor is it involved in its ongoing operation.