

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the Administration and Management of the 2017 State General Election Guide for Submissions

Background Information

Other jurisdictions in Australia have standing committees that focus solely on electoral matters. However, in WA, electoral affairs is just one of the many and varied issues within the remit of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee (the Committee).

It has become convention for the Committee to invite the Western Australian Electoral Commission (the Commission) to a public hearing prior to, and following, a State election. These hearings allow Committee members to raise concerns with and provide feedback to the Commission.

This year, the Committee decided that a more detailed assessment was justified. Accordingly, the Committee has resolved to inquire into the administration and management of the 2017 State General Election.

Inquiry Terms of Reference

The Committee will inquire into and report on the Western Australian Electoral Commission's administration and management of the 2017 State General Election. In particular, the Committee will assess the adequacy of the Commission's procedures in relation to:

- *Ballot security, including paper ballots and electronic ballots;*
- *The participation of communities with traditionally low levels of enrolment or turn out, and/or high levels of informality;*
- *Remote polling services; and*
- *The operation of polling places, including early voting centres, campaign advertising and the distribution of campaign material.*

In doing so, the Committee will consider the responsiveness of the Electoral Act 1907 to the electoral needs of Western Australia.

The Committee will report the outcome of this inquiry to the Legislative Assembly by 30 November 2017.

Call for Submissions

The Committee is now inviting submissions from interested parties. In the context of the Terms of Reference, the Committee is also seeking answers to the following questions:

Ballot security

- What measures did the Commission employ to secure paper ballots and electronic ballots during the 2017 election?
- What is best practice in ballot security (both paper and electronic)?

The participation of communities with traditionally low levels of enrolment or turn out, and/or high levels of informality

- What factors affect rates of enrolment, turn out and informality in Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities and amongst young people?
- What initiatives have other Australian jurisdictions adopted to address low enrolment or turn out and high levels of informality?
- How effective was the Commission’s Ambassador Program during the 2017 election?

Remote polling services

- How adequate were the polling services provided to people living in remote Western Australia?
- How do other jurisdictions in Australia and internationally provide polling services to people in remote locations? Could such initiatives be employed successfully in Western Australia?
- What factors affect the delivery of remote polling services in Western Australia?

The operation of polling places, including early voting centres, campaign advertising and the distribution of campaign material

- What were the experiences of electors, candidates, campaign workers/volunteers and polling place officials on election day and at early voting centres?
- Are there alternative early voting and/or polling place operational methods that could be adopted in Western Australia to improve the experience?

Important Information

All submissions become property of the Committee and will become public documents after tabling in the Legislative Assembly, unless the Committee resolves otherwise. Submissions should not be published or distributed to persons other than the Committee.

The Committee can resolve to publish submissions on the internet, but will not publish the personal contact details of people making submissions in this manner.

Signed submissions should be lodged no later than **Friday, 4 August 2017** and addressed to:

The Principal Research Officer
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly Committee Office
Level 1 / 11 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Alternatively, submissions can be forwarded electronically to lacdjsc@parliament.wa.gov.au.

Further information regarding the presentation of submissions may be obtained by contacting Ms Franchesca Walker, Acting Principal Research Officer, on 9222 7467 or by visiting the Committee’s website at www.parliament.wa.gov.au/cdjsc and clicking on the “Inquiry into the Administration and Management of the 2017 State General Election” tab.