



Statement of Reasons

Refusal of application to change the registered officer of One Nation

File reference: 13/690

The delegate of the Australian Electoral Commission (the AEC) determined that an application to change the registered officer of One Nation should be refused.

Background

Section 134 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act) provides that three members of a registered non-Parliamentary political party may apply to change the *Register of Political Parties* (the Register) in relation to that party.

The Act further provides that where an application to change the registered officer is made and the current registered officer of the party does not countersign the application, the current registered office is to be given notice of the application and a period of seven days in which to submit reasons why the change should not be made.

Current application

On 7 July 2013, the AEC received an application to change the registered officer of One Nation (the Party) to Mr Ulrich Artur Heinrich Mehnert. The application was made by three apparent Party members. As the current registered officer had not countersigned the application, it was provided to the current registered officer on 11 July 2013 as required under the Act.

On 17 July 2013, the current registered officer submitted minutes of a national teleconference of the Party affirming his continued appointment as registered officer and affirming an earlier decision to expel two of the applicants from membership of the Party.

Where there is dispute within a party as to whether a change of registered officer is being made with the authority of the party, the AEC has no role in choosing the best or most appropriate officer. The AEC's role is to determine whether the change is being made with the authority of the party. In this case, the current registered officer submitted evidence which supports the Party affirming him to continue in the role. The applicants did not submit any evidence with their application to show authority from the Party to make the change.

Conclusion

Accordingly, I refuse the application to change the registered officer of the Party to Mr Mehnert.

(signed)

Donella Greer

A/g Director Registration and Disclosure

Delegate of the Australian Electoral Commission

8 August 2013