

**LS5329 Released Document No. 20**

**From:** Thomas, Hedley [[thomash@theaustralian.com.au](mailto:thomash@theaustralian.com.au)]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 03, 2014 12:58 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Phil Diak  
**Subject:** Re: Indi media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Phil

In relation to the Indi enrolment issues, the acting Commissioner's statement yesterday referred to 27 electors.

As the AEC knows, these 27 came to prominence because of their enrolments in Indi, and - in a number of cases - the contradictory information in social media and mainstream media about their actual principal places of residence.

The AEC's monthly enrolment figures highlight the increases in the numbers on the roll in Indi before the election. I reported on the increases on Saturday, and noted that the growth rate was significantly higher than other rural Victorian seats with one exception. Not reported was the fact that the growth rate was higher in Indi in the lead-up to the 2013 election than it was in the 2010 election.

My questions concern why the AEC has apparently not attempted to ascertain anything about the legitimacy of those voters who enrolled in Indi and who are not on the list of those who were brought to the attention of the AEC by The Australian.

On face value, it appears that the AEC - and its referral to the AFP - has confined its interest to 27 instead of a few hundred.

Given the public interest and the need for integrity and public confidence in the electoral roll, I would appreciate responses from Mr Rogers about why this restrictive approach has been adopted.

Can you please follow this up and reply with responses by 4.30pm today. If you need to discuss any of this, on background or on the record, please do not hesitate to call me.

Regards

Hedley

On 2 October 2014 10:58, Phil Diak <[Phil.Diak@aec.gov.au](mailto:Phil.Diak@aec.gov.au)> wrote:  
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Hi Hedley

As discussed, here is a media release to be issued shortly.

Regards

Phil

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