



Our Reference: N13/229

Ms Bernadette Mitcherson
Executive Director
ACT Corrective Services
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Mitcherson

I write to you concerning the distribution of electoral material and prisoner voting for the forthcoming Federal election.

Under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act), persons serving a full-time sentence may cast a vote for Federal elections provided they meet the enrolment requirements of the Act and their sentence is less than three years.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) aimed at enabling persons detained in correctional facilities who are eligible to enrol and vote the opportunity to participate in the electoral process.

As part of our role in providing electoral services to all eligible voters, the AEC conducts mobile polling, wherever possible, in corrective service institutions.

Mobile polling consists of small teams of AEC staff (usually two) that take votes from eligible prisoners at a place designated by the officer in charge. While the vote remains 'secret', polling is always conducted under supervision of prison officials.

With your cooperation, mobile polling did take place at the Alexander Maconochie Centre for the 2013 Federal election. Therefore, the AEC seeks your cooperation, under section 227 of the Act, in providing access to AEC staff to conduct mobile polling of prisoners at that Centre. For your information, a copy of section 227 of the Act is included at the attachment to this letter.

It is understood that any such access is dependent on circumstances relating to security of the prison concerned.

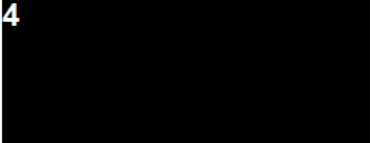
To assist us in our preparations, could you please advise if ACTCS would agree to mobile polling taking place. If you are in agreeance, could you also please provide me with the contact details of the relevant Corrective Services officer so that the Returning Officer can make contact to make arrangements for distribution of election material and for mobile polling.

If mobile polling is not appropriate, the AEC will provide quantities of postal voting forms (with reply-paid envelopes) as an alternate voting option.

If you would like to discuss this issue, please feel free to contact either myself on the number listed below or Mr Warwick Austin, Director Operations for NSW and the ACT (ph: 9375 6380).

I await your response and look forward to cooperating with you during the forthcoming election.

Yours sincerely

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Doug Off
AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL OFFICER AND
STATE MANAGER
FOR NEW SOUTH WALES

9 May 2016

REDACTION CODES

- 1 Personal Information (name) redacted.
- 2 Personal Information (date of birth) redacted.
- 3 Personal Information (photograph) redacted
- 4 Personal Information (facsimile of signature) redacted.
- 5 Personal Information (facsimile of manuscript initialling) redacted.
- 6 Personal Information (Individual's address) redacted.
- 7 Personal Information (individual's telephone number) redacted.
- 8 Personal Information (individual's opinion) redacted.
- 9 Personal Information (opinion about individual) redacted.
- 10 Personal Information (employment history) redacted.
- 11 Personal Information (qualifications) redacted.
- 12 Personal Information (health) redacted.
- 13 Personal Information (identifying individual) redacted.
- 14 Business information (Bank Account details) redacted.
- 15 Business information (Billing Account details) redacted.
- 16 Legal Professional Communication redacted.
- 17 Deliberative material redacted.
- 18 Irrelevant material redacted.
- 19 Electoral Roll material redacted.
- 20 Tests, examinations or audits material redacted.
- 21 Management or assessment of personnel material redacted.
- 22 Proper and efficient conduct of the operations of AEC material redacted.\
- 23 Lawful methods or procedures for preventing, detecting, investigating, or dealing with matters arising out of, breaches or evasions of the law.