

Ian Herps

From: Doug Orr
Sent: Thursday, 28 April 2016 10:21 AM
To: Ian Herps
Subject: FW: Draft response on prisoner issue [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Doug Orr | Australian Electoral Officer and State Manager for NSW
New South Wales Executive | NSW State Office
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 9375 6300 | M: [REDACTED] | F: (02) 6215 9913



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From: Andrew Gately
Sent: Thursday, 28 April 2016 9:32 AM
To: Doug Orr <Doug.Orr@aec.gov.au>; David Molnar <David.Molnar@aec.gov.au>; Mick Sherry <Mick.Sherry@aec.gov.au>
Subject: Draft response on prisoner issue [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Doug, David, Mick
A first cut response to Justice Action on the prisoner issue. Your thoughts appreciated.

Thanks
Andrew

Ms Irvine

I refer to the range of emails you recently sent to a number of our State Managers in relation to prisoners enrolling and voting. As the National Program Manager for enrolment matters I have agreed to coordinate an AEC response to your queries – as such I would be happy to receive any further correspondence on these matters on behalf of the AEC.

I note your range of questions in relation to this matter and have the following comments.

As you would know one of the main objectives for the AEC is to enable all eligible Australians, estimated at some 16.5M people, to enrol and vote. We aim to provide for the diverse range of needs and circumstances of all 16.5M eligible Australians, including prisoners, within the constructs of the Commonwealth Electoral Act (the Act), and the resources available to the AEC. However it remains the

obligation for all eligible Australians to enrol, to maintain their enrolment correctly, and to vote at Federal Elections.

As noted in the previous correspondence we do receive information from the various State entities responsible for prisons. For the most part this information, based on s109 of the Act, is focussed on identifying prisoners commencing and ceasing terms of imprisonment of greater than 3 years. This allows for the identification of enrolled prisoners that are not entitled to vote during an election. The information provided however is not typically enough to establish eligibility to enrol and vote for every individual and is not robust enough to be used for the purposes of enrolment and update of enrolment under s103A and s103B. This is also the case in relation to your question on released prisoners as accuracy of address information is critical to establishing entitlement.

At present the AEC's focus is preparing for the 2016 Federal Election. As part of this process we are encouraging all eligible Australians to enrol and vote through a range of public awareness channels. This includes the engagement by all our State Managers and their staff with State correctional agencies and facilities to provide enrolment and voting information, and options for voting in due course in prisons.

Regards

Andrew Gately | Assistant Commissioner
Roll Management Branch Executive | Roll Management Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4506 | M: [REDACTED] | F: 02 6271 4679



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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 Business information (Bank Account details) redacted.
- 14 Business information (Billing Account details) redacted.
- 15 Legal Professional Communication redacted.
- 16 Deliberative material redacted.
- 17 Irrelevant material redacted.
- 18 Electoral Roll material redacted.
- 19 Tests, examinations or audits material redacted.
- 20 Management or assessment of personnel material redacted.
- 21 Proper and efficient conduct of the operations of AEC material redacted.