

Annual Report

2022–23

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This report may contain the names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased.

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- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 13 23 26
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS and ask for 13 23 26

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Contents

About this report	ix
Tools to assist readers	ix
Letter of transmittal	x
Section 01 – Commissioner’s review	1
Record-breaking enrolment rates	2
Indigenous enrolment	3
Referendum preparation	3
Transforming our organisation	4
Looking forward	4
Section 02 – Overview of the AEC	5
Role and function	6
Organisational structure	6
AEC Organisation chart	7
Section 03 – Performance report	9
Annual performance statements	12
Key activity 1: Maintain the integrity of electoral and regulatory processes	13
Active electoral roll management	13
Enhancing the roll through continuous improvement	13
Roll data and extracts	14
Supporting electoral redistributions	16
Administering political party registrations and financial disclosure	18
<i>Referendum readiness</i>	20
Key activity 2: Prepare for and deliver electoral events	22
Conducting successful electoral events	22
Election Readiness Framework	23
Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce	23
Defending Democracy Unit	24
Reputation management	24
Cyber security	25
AEC Command Centre	26
Physical security	26
Property management	27

Information technology	27
Voter services	27
Results	29
Online enrolment	30
First Nations enrolment	30
Evidence of identity	31
Online attestor changes	31
Lessons management	32
Industrial elections and ballots	33
<i>Industrial elections and ballots – the case for change</i>	34
Key activity 3: Engage with our stakeholders through education and public awareness activities	35
Undertaking public awareness activities	35
Community engagement	36
Indigenous Australians	36
People with disability	37
Electors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	38
People experiencing homelessness	38
Youth	38
People in prison	38
Education	39
<i>Celebrating Australia's unique electoral system at the Museum of Australian Democracy</i>	40
The AEC's education centre	41
AEC for Schools Program	42
Referendum education	42
Digital education offerings	42
Key activity 4: Maintain a capable and agile organisation and continue to professionalise our workforce	44
<i>Focus on privacy</i>	46
Modernising the AEC's election and enrolment systems	47
Regulator performance	48
Section 04: International highlights 2022–23	51
International engagement	52
Election preparation in the Pacific	52
The AEC's contribution to global best practice	53
International training and development	54
Four Countries	55
Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand	55

Section 05 – Management and accountability	57
Corporate governance – principles and objectives	58
Ethical standards	58
Internal audit	58
Audit Committee	58
External audit	59
Risk management	59
Fraud control	60
Internal planning processes	60
Voter integrity	60
External scrutiny	61
Significant developments and judicial decisions	61
Administrative Appeals Tribunal decisions	61
Australian Information Commissioner decisions	62
Australian Privacy Commissioner decisions	62
Australian Human Rights Commission decisions	62
Auditor-General reports	62
Electoral communications complaints	62
Parliamentary committee engagement	62
Commonwealth Ombudsman investigations	62
Freedom of information	62
Customer scrutiny	63
Our people	63
Recruitment	64
Terms and conditions of employment	64
Performance management and performance pay	64
Remuneration	64
Workforce planning	65
Work health and safety	65
COVID-19 workplace safety	66
Health and safety incident and claim management	66
Developing our people	67
Inventory management	67
Physical assets	67
Environmental performance and sustainable development	68
Purchasing	69
Australian National Audit Office access clauses	69
Small business	69
Publication of contracts on AusTender	69
Consultants	69

Section 06 – Financial statements	73
Financial performance summary	74
Enterprise Portfolio Management Office (EPMO)	75
Independent Auditor’s report	76
Financial statements	78
Section 07 – Appendices	105
Appendix A: Resources	106
Appendix B: Governance	108
Accountable authority	108
Audit Committee details	108
Business planning documents	110
AEC management committees	111
Appendix C: Commonwealth Electoral Roll information	116
Enrolment rate and enrolled population	116
Appendix D: Electoral events data	121
2023 Aston by-election data	121
Appendix E: Public awareness data	122
Advertising and market research	122
Appendix F: Electoral redistribution data	123
Appendix G: Financial disclosure data	123
Election funding payments in 2022–23	123
Annual financial disclosure returns 2022–23	123
Appendix H: Workforce statistics	124
Appendix I: Electoral communications complaints	136
Appendix J: Greenhouse gas emissions reporting	136
Section 08 – Reader guides	137
Reader guides	138
Abbreviations and acronyms	138
Glossary	140
List of requirements – non-corporate Commonwealth entities	143
Section 09 – General index	149

Figures

Figure 1: Australia's 151 electoral divisions at 30 June 2023	17
Figure 2: Six guiding principles of AEC's Reputation Management System	24
Figure 3: Indigenous enrolment snapshot June 2017 to 30 June 2023	31
Figure 4: Enrolment rate trend from 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2023	116

Tables

Table 1: Performance measures from the AEC Portfolio Budget Statements mapped against agency key activities and functions	11
Table 2: Industrial elections and ballots key figures	33
Table 3: AEC performance against the regulator performance guide	49
Table 4: AEC APS workforce by employment type and classification (excluding statutory office holders) at 30 June 2023	63
Table 5: Current cases for compensable and non-compensable injuries at 30 June 2023	66
Table 6: Reportable consultancy contracts 2022–23	70
Table 7: List of organisations receiving a share of consultancy contracts 2022–23	70
Table 8: Reportable non-consultancy contracts 2022–23	71
Table 9: List of organisations receiving a share of reportable non-consultancy contract expenditure 2022–23	71
Table 10: Entity resource statement 2022–23	106
Table 11: Expenses and resources for Outcome 1	107
Table 12: Average staffing levels 2020–21 to 2022–23	107
Table 13: Details of accountable authority during current report period 2022–23	108
Table 14: Audit Committee	108
Table 15: Business planning documents	110
Table 16: AEC management committees	111
Table 17: Senators and Members of the House of Representatives provided with electoral roll extracts, 2022–23	117
Table 18: Registered political parties provided with electoral roll extracts, 2022–23	119
Table 19: Australian government departments and agencies (prescribed authorities) provided with electoral roll extracts, 2022–23	120
Table 20: Medical and electoral research organisations provided with electoral roll extracts, 2022–23	120
Table 21: Provision of electoral roll information to prescribed organisations, 2022–23	121
Table 22: Advertising and media placement payments, \$15,200 or more	122
Table 23: All ongoing employees by location, current report period 2022–23	124
Table 24: All non-ongoing employees by location, current report period 2022–23	125
Table 25: All ongoing employees by location, previous report period 2021–22	126

Table 26: All non-ongoing employees by location, previous report period 2021–22	126
Table 27: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> ongoing employees, current report period 2022–23	127
Table 28: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> non-ongoing employees, current report period 2022–23	128
Table 29: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> ongoing employees, previous report period 2021–22	129
Table 30: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> non-ongoing employees, previous report period 2021–22	129
Table 31: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> employees by full-time and part-time status, current report period 2022–23	130
Table 32: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> employees by full-time and part-time status, previous report period 2021–22	130
Table 33: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> employment types by location, current report period 2022–23	131
Table 34: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> employment types by location, previous report period 2021–22	131
Table 35: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> Indigenous employment, current report period 2022–23	132
Table 36: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> Indigenous employment, previous report period 2021–22	132
Table 37: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> employment arrangements, current report period 2022–23	132
Table 38: Australian <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> employment salary ranges by classification level (minimum/maximum), current report period 2022–23	132
Table 39: Statutory appointments under the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> as of 30 June 2023	133
Table 40: Information about remuneration for key management personnel (KMP)	134
Table 41: Information about remuneration for Senior Executives (SES)	135
Table 42: Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff	135
Table 43: Electoral communications complaints investigated by the AEC during the 2023 Aston By-Election	136
Table 44: Emissions reporting with electricity location-based approach	136
Table 45: Emissions reporting with electricity market-based approach	136

About this report

This report outlines the performance of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.

The report meets the requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* for annual reports.

There are nine sections:

1. **Commissioner's review** – the Electoral Commissioner reflects on the year
2. **Overview of the AEC** – the AEC's role, functions and organisational structure
3. **Performance report** – performance against the agency purpose and key activities in the AEC 2022–23 Corporate Plan with reference to the Portfolio Budget Statements
4. **International highlights 2022–23** – key contributions to the AEC's story over the last year
5. **Management and accountability** – information on the management and accountability of the AEC
6. **Financial statements** – financial performance for 2022–23 including audited financial statements
7. **Appendices** – additional information
8. **Reader guides** – abbreviations and acronyms, glossary and index to the list of annual report requirements
9. **General index.**

Tools to assist readers

This publication has:

- a table of contents
- lists of figures and tables
- an alphabetical index
- a list of requirements
- cross references
- an abbreviations and acronyms section
- a glossary.

See **page ii** for accessible services.

This report is available online at **transparency.gov.au**. A PDF version is also available at **aec.gov.au/2023**.

Letter of transmittal



Electoral Commissioner

Senator the Hon Don Farrell
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Cc: Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher
Minister for Finance

Dear Minister Farrell

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for the year ending 30 June 2023.

The report has been prepared for the purposes of:

- (i) section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*; and
- (ii) section 17 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

As required by section 10 and paragraph 17AG(2)(b) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*, I also certify that the AEC:

- has prepared fraud risk assessments and a fraud control plan;
- has in place appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud; and
- has taken all reasonable measures to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the AEC.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Rogers', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tom Rogers

22 September 2023

10 Mort Street, Canberra ACT 2600 P 02 6271 4411

www.aec.gov.au

SECTION 01

Commissioner's review

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

The Electoral Commissioner, Tom Rogers,
reflects on the year

Commissioner's review



The AEC has accomplished a remarkable amount this year and I am extremely proud of our continued ability to deliver trusted elections for all Australians.

Amongst many notable milestones this year we:

- achieved record breaking enrolment rates
- progressed preparations and readiness activities to deliver the first referendum in almost a quarter of a century (including extensive stakeholder engagement and education)
- delivered a by-election in the Division of Aston, and began the delivery of a by-election in Fadden
- progressed our readiness for the next federal election in 2024/2025.

We also continued to deliver our Elections Systems Modernisation Program (Indigo), including securing funding for the next phase of Indigo to ensure we continue to meet community expectations for electoral services into the future.

We have actively monitored emerging issues and trends that impact our operating environment and navigated a constantly evolving electoral landscape and associated challenges, including undertaking activities to enhance our capability and agility.

Record-breaking enrolment rates

The publication of enrolment statistics as at 30 June 2023 showcased the success of the AEC and the Australian community in achieving several significant enrolment 'firsts'. As a result, the forthcoming referendum will have an incredibly sound basis for democratic participation: in fact, better than any federal electoral event in Australia's history.

The estimated national enrolment rate is **97.5 per cent**. The estimated national rate of Indigenous enrolment is **94.1 per cent**. Enrolment in every state and territory has improved significantly.

This success is the result of many years of hard work to boost enrolment, particularly amongst those cohorts who have historically been underrepresented on the roll. We are proud of our work in continuing to grow the roll while maintaining its high levels of integrity.

Indigenous enrolment

The estimated Indigenous enrolment rate has increased nationally from 81.7 per cent as of 30 June 2022 to 94.1 per cent as of 30 June 2023. This is the highest rate of Indigenous enrolment ever reached nationally and in every state and territory.

The AEC has worked tirelessly over many years to achieve this result. One initiative that led to this outcome was expanding our direct enrolment program following successful trials in remote communities. Direct enrolment requires that we verify the data we use and that we notify individuals appropriately. We have established new methods to check data and inform people following careful consideration and undertaking trials. The use of community mailbags and email as methods of notification for people without mail delivery to their residence has proven to be effective, with appropriate rules and processes built into when it can be applied.

These processes are now part of the AEC's ongoing direct enrolment program and will assist in further raising enrolment in remote communities.

Referendum preparation

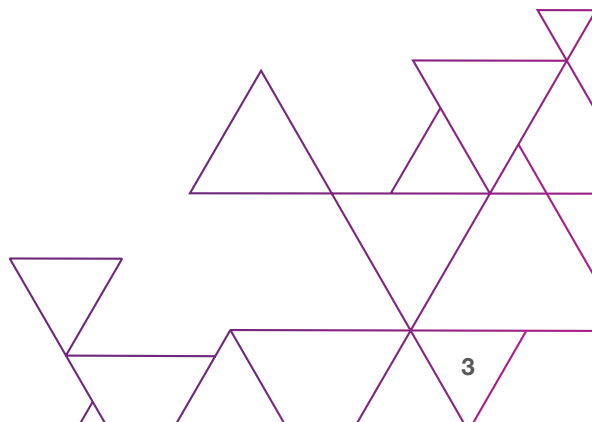
Australian electors last participated in a referendum in 1999. Given almost a quarter of a century has elapsed since then, there are large numbers of eligible voters who have never voted in a referendum before. Indeed, some new voters were not yet born when the last referendum was held. There have been significant changes in our society since then, not least of which is the way we consume information, and the development of high levels of citizen expectations of electoral services – driven, at least in part, by social media usage.

In recognition of this, the AEC has evolved our inaugural Reputation Management Strategy into to an all-encompassing Reputation Management System to recognise and build on the numerous operational, electoral integrity and reputation management activities across the AEC in the lead-up to the referendum.

Amendments to the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* passed Parliament in March 2023 bringing the delivery of referendums into line with federal elections, and provided greater clarity to inform and refine our preparations.

The AEC has undertaken extensive education and public awareness activities in the lead-up to this referendum to ensure people understand what to expect and how to participate; including extensive electoral information on our website and social media channels. We also developed a community education program that included information in language, and face-to-face and online sessions for First Nations voters and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

A highlight from our education offering this year included launching an innovative public exhibition, *Writs to Referendums: Celebrating Australia's unique electoral system*, within the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House. The exhibition provides an opportunity for citizens to learn about our electoral system in a new and engaging way.



Transforming our organisation

In addition to delivering electoral services and education activities for Australians, we have continued to transform our organisation. This is an extremely dynamic program of work with its own unique set of challenges and timeframes. The AEC secured funding for the next phase of the 'Indigo' Program as part of the 2023–24 Federal Budget. This once-in-a-generation investment is a significant milestone in our transformation journey and represents a strong commitment from Government to strengthen electoral integrity by supporting the AEC to redevelop our highly complex IT systems (the engines of Australia's democracy).

The funding will be used to strengthen Australia's electoral integrity by ensuring the systems delivering democratic processes are able to cope with emerging threats. This investment will build on core capabilities delivered under the first tranche of the program, announced in the 2020–21 Budget, including capabilities to support effective supply chain and temporary workforce management. It will also improve the voter experience and better safeguard their data, replacing legacy election management systems with modern, secure and citizen-focused technologies.

Looking forward

The AEC expects to be delivering the referendum between September and December 2023; and we have done necessary work to ensure we are ready to deliver this event with the highest integrity. In addition, we will continue to progress our readiness to deliver the next federal election whenever that event may be. Our proactive electoral roll management combined with our robust readiness framework will put us in good stead to deliver what is expected of our agency for the year ahead.

We will start the process to redistribute the seats for the House of Representatives in New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia. The final names and boundaries of seats is expected before the end of 2024.

Of course, our enrolment work is never finished. We process millions of transactions every year and we want all Australians enrolled to participate in elections. We'll keep striving to achieve high integrity electoral outcomes and maintain the excellent reputation of Australia's electoral system.

Finally, all AEC staff remain committed to delivering operationally excellent, high integrity electoral events. I am confident we will continue to fulfil our role as custodians of the electoral system which is a fundamental part of our nation's democratic machinery.

SECTION 02

Overview of the AEC

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

The role, function and organisational structure
of the Australian Electoral Commission

Overview of the AEC

Role and function

The AEC is a non-corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and an independent statutory authority, established under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act).

It is funded to deliver one purpose and one outcome:

Maintain an impartial and independent electoral system for eligible voters through active electoral roll management, efficient delivery of polling services, and targeted education and public awareness programs.

The AEC has one program:

1.1 To deliver electoral events.

Pursuant to the Electoral Act and the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*, we do this by:

- conducting successful electoral events, including federal elections, by-elections and referendums, and industrial elections and ballots
- ensuring confidence in the Commonwealth Electoral Roll
- regulating political party registrations and financial disclosure
- supporting electoral redistributions
- undertaking public awareness activities.

We also provide a range of electoral information and education programs both in Australia and in support of Australia's national interests.

Our vision is:

We are a leader in refining and delivering best practice in election management.

Organisational structure

The Electoral Commissioner, Tom Rogers, is appointed under the Electoral Act and is responsible for managing and operating the AEC.

At 30 June 2023, the AEC's Executive Leadership Team was:

- Tom Rogers Electoral Commissioner
- Jeff Pope APM
Deputy Electoral Commissioner
- Kath Gleeson
First Assistant Commissioner
- Thomas Ryan
First Assistant Commissioner
- Michael Lynch
First Assistant Commissioner
- Rachael Spalding
First Assistant Commissioner.

An organisational chart that includes our senior executive and their responsibilities as of 30 June 2023 is on **page 7**.

The AEC has a three-tier structure with:

- a national office in Canberra
- state and territory offices
- divisional offices.

Section 6 of the Electoral Act establishes a three-person Commission which has exclusive powers, particularly in relation to electoral redistributions, political party registration, and funding and disclosure.

At 30 June 2023, the Commission was:

- Hon. Justice Susan Kenny AM,
Chairperson
- Mr Tom Rogers, Electoral Commissioner
- Dr David Gruen AO, Australian
Statistician and non-judicial member.

AEC Organisation chart

Electoral Commissioner
Tom Rogers

Deputy Electoral Commissioner
Jeff Pope

Service Delivery Group
Kath Gleeson
First Assistant Commissioner
and National Election Manager

Electoral Integrity and Operations Group
Michael Lynch
First Assistant Commissioner

Organisational Transformation Group
Thomas Ryan
First Assistant Commissioner

Enabling and Regulation Group
Rachael Spalding
First Assistant Commissioner

Finance and Corporate Performance Branch Sally So Chief Financial Officer	Strategic Priorities Branch Melanie Hinde Assistant Commissioner	Delivery and Support Branch Natasha Scandrett Assistant Commissioner	Service Design and Foundations Branch Tania Wilson Assistant Commissioner	State Operations NSW/ACT Rebecca Main State Manager VIC Nye Coffey State Manager QLD Stephanie Attard State Manager WA Anita Ratcliffe State Manager	Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch Matthew Haigh Assistant Commissioner	Digital Technology Branch John Forrest Chief Information Officer	Enterprise Strategy and Modernisation Branch Rhianna Jory Assistant Commissioner	Modernisation Delivery Branch Stewart Kerr A/g Assistant Commissioner	People Branch Robyn Black Chief People Officer Workforce and Engagement Strategies	Legal Services Branch Andrew Johnson Chief Legal Officer	Disclosure, Party Registration & Redistribution Branch Joanne Reid Assistant Commissioner
Financial Accounting and Services	Remote Voter Services Taskforce	Electoral and Roll Services	Roll Operations and Client Services	Hannah Brown State Manager NT Geoffrey Bloom State Manager	Defending Democracy Unit	IT Strategy and Architecture (Chief Technology Officer)	Enterprise Portfolio Management Office	Indigo Program Delivery	Employee Relations and Wellbeing	Regulatory Law	Assistant Commissioner
Corporate Performance and External Budgets	Event Workforce Optimisation Taskforce	National Event Management	Industrial Elections Ballots	Geoffrey Bloom State Manager	Cyber Security and Assurance	IT Infrastructure	Information Management and Business Intelligence	Indigo Product Management and Transition	National Training and Education Unit	Corporate Law	Party Registration and Redistribution
Strategic Sourcing and Systems	Property Management and Facilities	Centre of Event Expertise	Operational Services Strategy, Design and Data	AEC Command Centre and Physical Security	AEC Command Centre and Physical Security	IT Solutions Delivery	Indigo Future Planning and Sustainability	TEW Delivery Manager	Payroll and Systems		Disclosure and Compliance
Management Accounting	Property Planning and Capital Works	Supply Chain Management	Doctrine, Planning and Quality	Communications	Media and Digital Engagement	IT Governance	Indigo Program Office	Indigo Testing	Recruitment		
	COVID and Remote Safety Taskforce			Risk and Business Continuity	Risk and Business Continuity	AEC Service Operations	Indigo Program Office		TEW Support		
	Strategic Communications and Education Taskforce	- Strategic Communications	Exercises and Rehearsals	Referendum Pamphlet Team	Referendum Pamphlet Team	Program Transformation	Program Transformation				
		- Governance & Reporting				Transformation Strategy and Change	Transformation Strategy and Change				
		- Education				Vendor Management Office	Vendor Management Office				

Australian Electoral Commission (the Commission)
Chairperson: Hon. Justice Susan Kenny AM
Non-judicial member: Dr David Gruen AO, Australian Statistician
Electoral Commissioner: Mr Tom Rogers



SECTION 03

Performance report

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

Performance against the agency purpose and key activities
in the AEC Corporate Plan 2022–23 with reference to the
Portfolio Budget Statements

Performance report

The AEC's performance is measured against the agency's key activities, outlined in the AEC Corporate Plan 2022–23 and the performance measures in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS).

Our four key activities work towards achieving our purpose:

- 1 maintain the integrity of electoral and regulatory processes
- 2 prepare for and deliver electoral events
- 3 engage with our stakeholders through education and public awareness activities
- 4 maintain a capable and agile organisation and continue to professionalise our workforce.

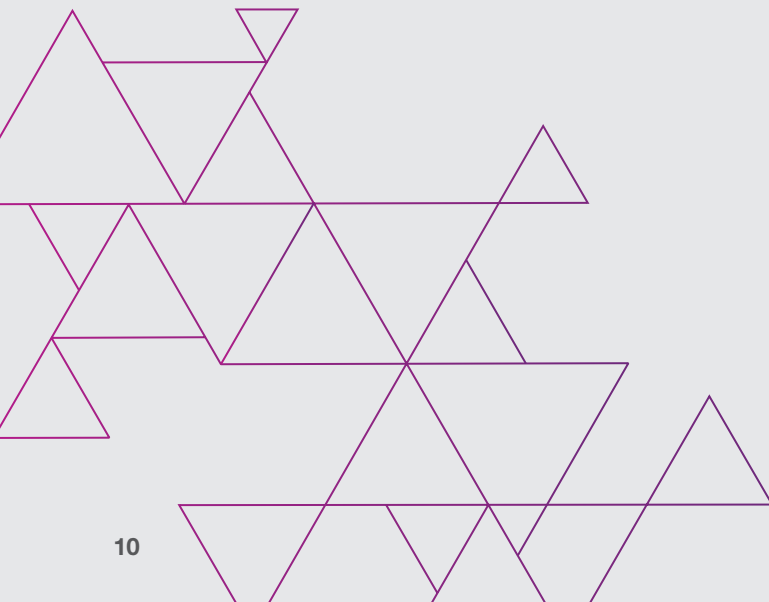


Table 1: Performance measures from the AEC Portfolio Budget Statements mapped against agency key activities and functions

Portfolio Budget Statements	Corporate Plan			
Maintain an impartial and independent electoral system for eligible voters through active electoral roll management, efficient delivery of polling services, and targeted education and public awareness programs				
Outcome in the PBS	Purpose in our Corporate Plan			
One program: 1.1 To deliver electoral events	Key activities			
Performance measures	1	2	3	4
Electoral roll management				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of eligible voters enrolled (enrolment rate) 	✓	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redistributions determined in accordance with the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> 	✓	✓		
Elections, by-elections and referendums				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The election result – for each event – is delivered in accordance with the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> 	✓	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial election and ballot results are delivered with integrity and withstand scrutiny 	✓	✓		✓
Public awareness				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver public awareness and education products that target all Australian citizens aged 18 years and over 		✓	✓	
Party registrations and financial disclosure				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AEC maintains an up-to-date public register of political parties 	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclosure returns are published and regulated in accordance with timeframes in the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> 	✓		✓	

The agency’s key activities guide our actions and priorities, and promote continuous improvement.

The AEC’s performance is managed in relation to two cycles:

- four-year *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* performance cycle
- three-year federal election cycle.

Internally, we focus on a three-year electoral cycle encompassing the three phases of election preparedness used in our Election Readiness Framework:

1. lessons
2. implement change
3. mobilisation.

The AEC prepares for federal electoral events through the Election Ready Road Map while balancing other priorities. Each phase directs the activities to be undertaken and provides a path towards delivering the next federal electoral event. These phases synchronise event preparation across the agency to meet a Directed Level of Election Readiness. The Election Readiness Framework gives the Electoral Commissioner assurance that the AEC is at an appropriate ‘level of readiness’ to conduct a federal event when required.

In 2022–23, the AEC prepared to deliver the referendum while moving through the ‘lessons’ phase and transitioning into the ‘implement change’ phase of the next electoral cycle. We followed concurrently an Election Ready Road Map and a Referendum Ready Road Map.

The successful conduct of the 2022 federal election showcased our continuing development towards professionalising our workforce and improving processes.

The AEC is using lessons from the federal election to shape future organisational capability and to drive modernisation efforts. In this way, we will ensure our systems remain fit-for-purpose in a constantly changing environment.

Annual performance statements

The annual performance statements (included in the following tables from pages **15** to **48**) detail the AEC's performance against each of the agency's four key activities. They include a result and explanation for each criterion:

1. met/on track to be met
2. partly met
3. not met.

The Accountable Authority signs off the performance statements for 2022–23.

Statement by Electoral Commissioner

I, as the Accountable Authority of the Australian Electoral Commission, present the 2022–23 annual performance statements of the Australian Electoral Commission as required under paragraph 39(1) (a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. In my opinion, these annual performance statements are based on properly maintained records, accurately reflect the performance of the entity, and comply with subsection 39(2) of the Act.

Tom Rogers
Electoral Commissioner

22 September 2023

Key activity 1

Maintain the integrity of electoral and regulatory processes

An essential feature of Australian democracy is an electoral system that operates with a high level of integrity.

The AEC maintains an impartial electoral system and processes for elections, referendums and by-elections in accordance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) and the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*.

As the Australian Government's independent electoral body, electoral integrity is central to the AEC's values of quality, agility and professionalism.

To maintain electoral integrity, the AEC regulates important aspects of the electoral system.

This includes:

- maintaining a complete and accurate Commonwealth Electoral Roll
- driving voter turnout
- supporting electoral redistributions
- registering political parties
- regulating the funding and disclosure scheme for political entities and individuals
- regulating the authorisation of electoral communications.

In this way, all eligible Australians can enrol, nominate as candidates, vote and have their votes counted accurately and securely. The AEC manages an electoral system that is free, fair and appropriately regulated.

Active electoral roll management

The Commonwealth Electoral Roll – the list of Australians eligible to vote at federal electoral events – is integral to election delivery.

The AEC's key electoral roll activities are:

- encouraging eligible voters to enrol and keep their enrolment up to date
- targeted enrolment programs
- enrolment processing
- measuring and driving accuracy of the roll.

The AEC also supports state, territory and local government elections by managing the electoral roll through joint roll arrangements.

Enhancing the roll through continuous improvement

The electoral roll continues to grow, with more than 17.5 million Australians enrolled at 30 June 2023.

The enrolment rate of 97.5 per cent exceeds the AEC's target of 95 per cent.

Despite these significant outcomes, the AEC remains committed to enhancing enrolment services through a program of user-centric, continuous improvement that incrementally gives more eligible Australians the chance to exercise their democratic responsibilities.

Some of the continuous improvement activities from 2022–23 included:

1. First Nations enrolment uplift to further increase electoral participation
2. Federal Direct Enrolment Update (FDEU) program enhancements, increasing the volume of potential direct enrolments through access to new datasets
3. Making enrolling to vote easier for all eligible Australians through improved accessibility.

First Nations enrolment uplift

The AEC is committed to ensuring all eligible Australians are enrolled and able to fully participate in the electoral system.

Activities to enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' enrolment were funded under the Enhancing Indigenous Engagement New Policy Proposal, with bi-partisan support for this work. The estimated Indigenous enrolment rate increased from 81.7 per cent in June 2022 to 94.1 per cent in June 2023. We continue to engage with First Nations people through a multi-faceted approach and a mix of activities. This includes:

- enhancements to the FDEU program
- expansion of evidence of identity to include Medicare cards and citizenship certificates
- an online attestor capability
- improved access to physical enrolment forms
- efforts on the ground by dedicated staff
- education and supporting improved enrolment outcomes.

Estimated Indigenous enrolment rates are published at www.aec.gov.au.

Roll data and extracts

Under the Electoral Act, the AEC provides electoral roll extracts to members of the House of Representatives, senators, federally registered political parties, federal government departments and agencies, and other specified recipients. This includes providing secure access to electoral roll information for the purpose of identity verification services under the law.

Australian government departments and agencies may receive electoral roll information if they are a 'prescribed authority' under item 4 of the table in subsection 90B(4) of the Electoral Act. A list of prescribed authorities currently eligible to receive electoral roll information is set out in Schedule 1 of the *Electoral and Referendum Regulation 2016* (the Regulation). Each prescribed authority may only use electoral

roll information for a permitted purpose as set out in the Regulation.

Reflecting our commitment to continuous improvement of data security and privacy practices, the AEC became a data issuer to the Document Verification Service (DVS) in February 2022. The DVS is a secure, national online identity verification service administered by the Department of Home Affairs. Through a secure and direct link, the AEC verifies identity queries against data contained on the electoral roll without the need to provide an extract of data.


In 2022–23, the AEC established a new secure portal to provide electoral roll data to members of the House of Representatives, senators and federally registered political parties in line with their legal entitlements. Under section 90B(1) of the Electoral Act, members of the House of Representatives are entitled to access electoral roll information for the division in which they are elected. Senators are entitled to access electoral roll information for the state or territory in which they are elected. Federally registered political parties are entitled to electoral roll data for the states and territories in which they are organised, and any other state or territory where the party has an elected member or senator. Access to the new portal, Electoral Roll Access, is only available to members of the House of Representatives, senators and registered political parties and their authorised delegates. Unauthorised access to electoral roll information is prohibited by law and the AEC provides guidelines to assist entitled entities or their delegates to understand their permitted purpose and use of electoral roll data, penalties, privacy and security requirements.

A list of registered political parties, government departments and other recipients of roll information and extracts is in **appendix C**. Further details can be found at www.aec.gov.au.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY ONE

Intended result 1.1 Deliver the franchise – an Australian citizen's right to vote


Performance measure

Percentage of eligible voters enrolled (enrolment rate)	Source	Electoral roll and Australian Bureau of Statistics population data.
	Method & frequency	Roll and population data calculated and reported annually at the end of each financial year and at close of rolls for a federal election or referendum.
	Target	≥95%
	Result	 Met

Explanation of result: At 30 June 2023, electoral roll completeness – measured through the enrolment rate – was 97.5%. With more than 17.5 million Australians enrolled to vote, Australia now has the largest number of eligible electors on the electoral roll since Federation. We continue to exceed the AEC's target enrolment rate of 95%.

Intended result 1.1 Deliver the franchise – an Australian citizen's right to vote


Performance measure

Percentage of voters enrolled who turn out to vote at all federal electoral events (turnout rate)	Source	AEC Tally Room.
	Method & frequency	Number of people enrolled to vote who cast a vote by any voting method at a federal electoral event.
	Target	≥90% for federal electoral events. Where applicable, turnout rate will be reported for by-elections.
	Result	 Met

Explanation of result: The AEC conducted a by-election for the Division of Aston on 1 April 2023. Turnout for the Aston by-election was 85.64%.

Intended result 1.1 Deliver the franchise – an Australian citizen's right to vote


Performance measure

Percentage of votes cast formally for the House of Representatives and Senate at next federal election or at a referendum or for by-elections (if any held)	Source	AEC Tally Room.
	Method & frequency	Percentage of formal votes cast when compared to all votes cast, at a federal electoral event (including referendum).
	Target	≥90% for federal electoral events. Where applicable, formality rate will be reported for by-elections.
	Result	 Met





Explanation of result: The AEC conducted a by-election for the Division of Aston on 1 April 2023. Formality rate was 96.7% for the Aston by-election.

Intended result 1.2 Maintain a high level of confidence in the electoral roll

Performance measure

Percentage accuracy of the Commonwealth Electoral Roll at the electoral division-level and individual address-level	Source	The Annual Roll Integrity Review, which measures the accuracy and integrity of electoral roll data.
	Method & frequency	AEC roll data and other agency data, calculated and publicly published quarterly and annually at the end of each financial year.
	Target	≥95% and ≥90%
	Result	 Met

Explanation of result: The accuracy and integrity of the electoral roll – at the divisional level and individual address level – were 96% and 92% respectively. Both metrics are above the target.

Result key  Met  On track to be met  Partly met  Not met

Supporting electoral redistributions

A redistribution of electoral divisions is undertaken in accordance with Part IV of the Electoral Act. Redistributions ensure – as close as practical – that an equal number of electors are in each electoral division within a state or territory. Each member in the House of Representatives represents an electoral division.

A redistribution is required when:

- there is a change in the number of members in the House of Representatives to which a state or territory is entitled
- the number of electors in more than one third of the electoral divisions of a state (or one electoral division in the ACT or the Northern Territory) deviates from the average divisional enrolment of that state or territory by more than plus or minus 10 per cent for a period of more than two months
- seven years have elapsed since the last redistribution was determined.

Deferral of redistribution

A redistribution of New South Wales was expected to start within 30 days of 26 February 2023. Seven years had elapsed since the last redistribution of New South Wales was determined on 25 February 2016.

The Electoral Commission analysed projected population figures and considered there may be a change in the number of members of the House of Representatives to be chosen in New South Wales at the time of the Electoral Commissioner’s next determination.

Following this consideration, the Electoral Commission directed the scheduled redistribution of New South Wales be deferred until after the determination of the number of members of the House of Representatives. This determination could not be made before 27 July 2023, 12 months after the first sitting day of the 47th Parliament.

A redistribution of New South Wales is set to commence in the second half of 2023 after the Electoral Commissioner’s determination.

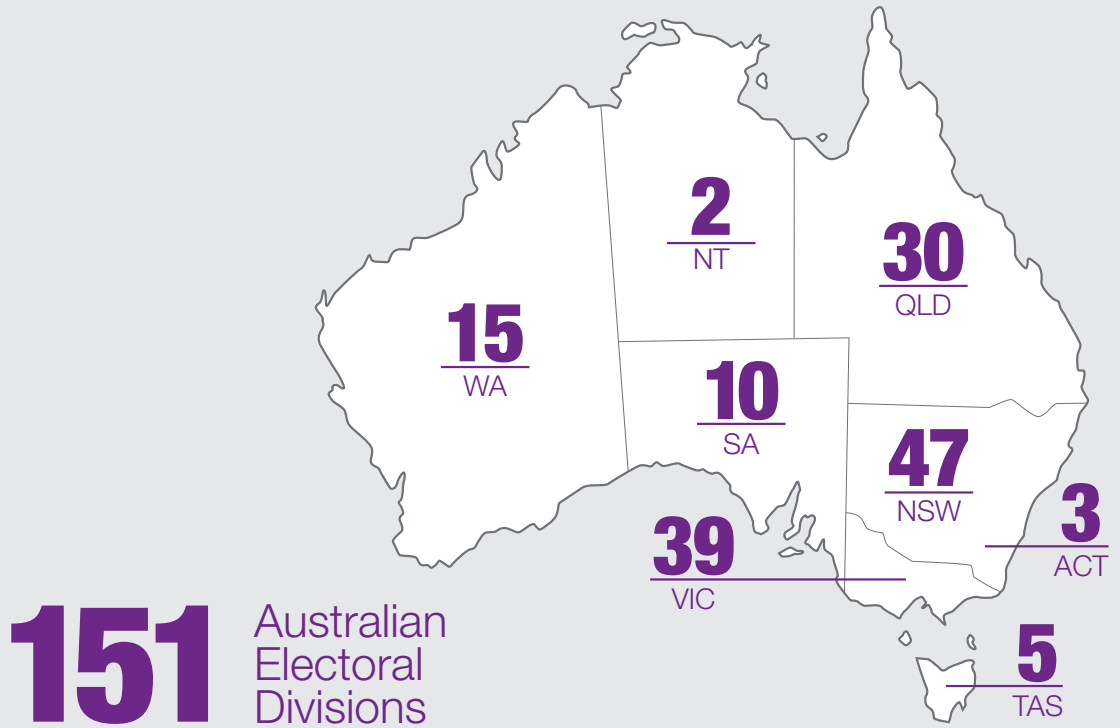
No other redistributions were scheduled to commence for the other states and territories during 2022–23.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY ONE

Intended result 1.2 Maintain a high level of confidence in the electoral roll		
Performance measure		
Redistributions determined in accordance with the Electoral Act	Source	Government Gazette and newspaper notices, and the date of letters to electors lodged with Australia Post.
	Method & frequency	For each redistribution, publication of notices and letters to electors comply with requirements in the Electoral Act.
	Target	All redistributions are determined in accordance with the planned determination date and impacted electors are notified prior to the relevant election.
	Result	■ Met
<p>Explanation of result: No federal redistributions were undertaken in 2022–23. The New South Wales redistribution was deferred until after the Electoral Commissioner has made his determination of the number of members of the House of Representatives each state and territory will be entitled to at the next general election. The Electoral Commissioner’s determination is due to be made on or after 27 July 2023.</p>		

Result key ■ Met ■ On track to be met ■ Partly met ■ Not met

Figure 1: Australia's 151 electoral divisions at 30 June 2023



New South Wales

- Banks
- Barton
- Bennelong
- Berowra
- Blaxland
- Bradfield
- Calare
- Chifley
- Cook
- Cowper
- Cunningham
- Dobell
- Eden-Monaro
- Farrer
- Fowler
- Gilmore
- Grayndler
- Greenway
- Hughes
- Hume
- Hunter
- Kingsford Smith
- Lindsay
- Lyne
- Macarthur
- Mackellar
- McMahon
- Macquarie
- Mitchell
- Newcastle
- New England
- North Sydney
- Page
- Parke
- Parramatta
- Paterson
- Reid
- Richmond
- Riverina
- Robertson
- Shortland
- Sydney
- Warringah
- Watson
- Wentworth
- Werriwa
- Whitlam

Tasmania

- Bass
- Braddon
- Clark
- Franklin
- Lyons

Victoria

- Aston
- Ballarat
- Bendigo
- Bruce
- Calwell
- Casey
- Chisholm
- Cooper
- Corangamite
- Corio
- Deakin
- Dunkley
- Flinders
- Fraser
- Gellibrand
- Gippsland
- Goldstein
- Gorton
- Hawke
- Higgins
- Holt
- Hotham
- Indi
- Isaacs
- Jagajaga
- Kooyong
- Lalor
- La Trobe
- McEwen
- Macnamara
- Mallee
- Maribyrnong
- Melbourne
- Menzies
- Monash
- Nicholls
- Scullin
- Wannon
- Wills

South Australia

- Adelaide
- Barker
- Boothby
- Grey
- Hindmarsh
- Kingston
- Makin
- Mayo
- Spence
- Sturt

Australian Capital Territory

- Bean
- Canberra
- Fenner

Western Australia

- Brand
- Burt
- Canning
- Cowan
- Curtin
- Durack
- Forrest
- Fremantle
- Hasluck
- Moore
- O'Connor
- Pearce
- Perth
- Swan
- Tangney

Northern Territory

- Lingiari
- Solomon

Queensland

- Blair
- Bonner
- Bowman
- Brisbane
- Capricornia
- Dawson
- Dickson
- Fadden
- Fairfax
- Fisher
- Flynn
- Forde
- Griffith
- Groom
- Herbert
- Hinkler
- Kennedy
- Leichhardt
- Lilley
- Longman
- McPherson
- Maranoa
- Moncrieff
- Moreton
- Oxley
- Petrie
- Rankin
- Ryan
- Wide Bay
- Wright

Administering political party registrations and financial disclosure

The AEC helps stakeholders carry out their obligations and responsibilities under the Electoral Act. This includes maintaining the funding and disclosure scheme and providing information and services to support political party registration.

The AEC maintains the Register of Political Parties. Under the Commonwealth funding and financial disclosure scheme, we require groups and individuals to lodge annual or election period financial disclosure returns.

Financial information about donations to political parties and election campaigns can be securely lodged online through the AEC's eReturns system.

The AEC maintains a Transparency Register, with information about political parties, significant third parties, associated entities, members of the House of Representatives, senators, third parties, Senate Groups, and donors registered with or recognised by the AEC. Information in the Transparency Register is available to the public for inspection, including the current register of entities, annual financial disclosure returns, enforceable undertakings and election funding claims. Transparency Register enhancements in 2022–23 included a global search function and the integration of entity registers.

To support the integrity of the financial disclosures, the AEC undertakes an annual compliance program of disclosure returns. Compliance reviews are published on the AEC's website.

The AEC administers public funding for political parties and candidates contesting federal elections and by-elections. Election funding rates are available at www.aec.gov.au.

In 2022–23:

- one new political party was registered
- six political parties were deregistered
- five decisions made by the delegate were reviewed by the Electoral Commission, the outcomes were –
 - one decision to register a party was affirmed
 - one decision to change a party's logo was affirmed
 - three decisions to deregister parties were affirmed
- three reviews of the delegate's decisions were under consideration (as at 30 June 2023).

As part of the financial disclosure scheme:

- the AEC received 1,488 election returns
- the AEC received 988 annual financial disclosure returns including 111 amendments
- 90.1 per cent of returns were completed online
- 38 compliance reviews of annual financial disclosure returns were conducted, resulting in 32 amended returns lodged by the party or entity
- 14 compliance reviews of election funding claims related to the 2022 federal election were conducted.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY ONE

Intended result 1.3 Exercise our regulatory functions

Performance measure

The AEC maintains an up-to-date public register of political parties	Source	Electoral Act (s125 (1) of Part XI), AEC funding and disclosure, Client and Return Management system and www.aec.gov.au .
	Method & frequency	No identified breaches of s125 (1) of Part XI of the Electoral Act for the year, as at reporting date.
	Target	Compliance with s125(1) of Part XI of the Electoral Act.
	Result	■ Met

Explanation of result: The AEC maintained a publicly available Register of Political Parties during the year, consistent with the Electoral Act. The register was updated after every party registration application or review had been finalised. These included new parties, changes to the register, appointments or revocations of a party official, or deregistration applications.

Intended result 1.3 Exercise our regulatory functions

Performance measure

Disclosure returns are published and regulated in accordance with the timeframes in the Electoral Act.	Source	For annual returns and election returns, the source is the Transparency Register. Both the register and compliance reviews can be found at www.aec.gov.au .
	Method & frequency	Annual returns measured annually. Election returns measured for each event. Compliance reviews measured annually as at reporting date.
The AEC conducts compliance reviews in line with the approved program.	Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Annual returns published on the first working day in February b) Election returns published 24 weeks after polling day for each electoral event c) Compliance reviews completed annually compared to the approved program.
	Result	■ Partly met

Explanation of result:

- a) 2021–22 annual disclosure returns received by the AEC were published on 1 February 2023.
- b) 2022 federal election returns received by the AEC were published on the due date of 7 November 2022.
- c) We undertake regular compliance reviews examining a sample of disclosure returns and use a risk-based approach to compliance.

The compliance review program runs on a calendar year as opposed to a financial year.

In 2022–23, the AEC completed 38 compliance reviews of annual financial disclosure returns and 14 compliance reviews on election funding claims relating to the 2022 federal election.

At 30 June 2023, six reviews from the 2022 program were in progress (including five issued to the client in draft for comment), and two reviews from the 2020 program were in progress (including one issued to the client in draft for comment). A total of 42 compliance reviews were approved for commencement of the 2023 compliance program.

Enforcement activity related to non-lodgement of 2022 federal election returns is underway and will not be reported until finalisation of matters has occurred.

Result key ■ Met ■ On track to be met ■ Partly met ■ Not met

Referendum readiness

In June 2023, the government passed the Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023 bill, providing the trigger for the first referendum in Australia in more than two decades. In what is already a complex environment, referendum delivery brings substantial challenges.

Electoral processes have changed significantly since the last referendum in 1999, requiring updates to the legislation guiding the AEC's preparations, the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*. These amendments, which received royal assent on 27 March 2023, aim to ensure a consistent voter experience in line with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

Among the changes:

- postal voting and scrutineer requirements are now aligned with equivalent procedures in federal elections
- requirements for authorisations of referendum communications have been updated
- a broadcasting blackout period for referendums has been introduced
- a financial disclosure scheme has been established, with limits to foreign influence
- remote mobile polling can commence 19 days prior to voting day.

Leading up to electoral events the AEC has prioritised enrolment, while ensuring high levels of integrity. The national enrolment rate is currently at 97.5 per cent. The 2023 referendum will have the best base for democratic participation of any federal electoral event in Australia's history.

This is a remarkable achievement, though there is always room for improvement. Youth and First Nations Australians continue to be the most underrepresented groups on the roll. In addition to running several general enrolment campaigns in advance of the referendum, we have also targeted these groups with specific enrolment initiatives. They include advertising, direct messaging, public relations, community outreach, media liaison, social media engagement and website content.

To further increase Indigenous enrolment – and electoral participation more generally – the Government provided \$16.1 million over two years in the 2022–23 Budget. The AEC has invested in various initiatives through this funding.



Indigenous Electoral Participation Program (IEPP)

Through the IEPP, the AEC works with over 80 Indigenous-led organisations and other service providers to empower communities through the democratic process. Our partners assist with voter information sessions, translate information into local languages, help with enrolment and youth engagement programs and promote work opportunities at electoral events. (more information [page 36](#))

Federal Direct Enrolment and Update (FDEU) Program

The AEC is committed to improving the effectiveness of FDEU for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Between August 2022 and April 2023, the AEC completed several direct enrolment trials using new data and business rules designed to improve outcomes for First Nations people.

Two trials undertaken between October and December 2022 tested the use of community mailbags and email to deliver FDEU notifications to clients. Under these trials, the AEC sent approximately 1,700 notifications and applied nearly 1,400 enrolments.

Overall, the trials added more than 16,000 First Nations people to the roll. This success resulted in strategic improvements to the FDEU program, adding a total of around 45,000 First Nations people to the roll. This contributed to a significant increase in the estimated Indigenous enrolment rate. (more information [page 30](#))

Medicare evidence of identity

From 17 February 2023, Australians can enrol to vote, or update their enrolment, using their Medicare card as evidence of identity. This helps reduce barriers for First Nations people living in remote areas and for those who do not have a driver's licence or passport. (more information [page 31](#))

While any gap between the national enrolment rate and Indigenous enrolment rates is disappointing, these initiatives have already had an impact. The June 2022 estimated national Indigenous enrolment rate was 81.7 per cent. We saw a marked increase of 12.4 percentage points to 94.1 per cent in June 2023, much of which can be attributed to ongoing effort in this area.

This represents the highest ever Indigenous enrolment rate. The AEC is committed to closing the enrolment gap even further with the aim of parity between the estimated Indigenous enrolment rate and national enrolment.

Key activity 2

Prepare for and deliver electoral events

The AEC delivers federal electoral events, industrial elections, protected action ballots, and Torres Strait Regional Authority elections in accordance with the relevant legislation and rules.

The AEC provides the best possible electoral services and events to stakeholders and the public within a complex environment and in response to increasing community expectations. Maximising available resourcing, the AEC must deliver these services and events with the highest degree of integrity, impartiality, and in accordance with relevant legislation.

The proposed referendum to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice creates an environment in which the AEC and its staff (including temporary election workers and contractors) must demonstrate and maintain their neutrality. The neutrality of the AEC and its staff and suppliers is an essential element that underpins the agency's integrity and reputation. It is a critical component of the AEC's ethos.

The AEC's role is to successfully deliver an impartial referendum with the highest levels of integrity. A referendum by its very nature is about an issue. While political parties and other entities may be active in the referendum debate, the purpose of the referendum is for the voting public to either approve or reject the proposed amendment to the Constitution. The AEC is required to be neutral, not just with political actors involved in the referendum (political neutrality), but also on the issue that is the subject to amend the Constitution (issue neutrality).

The AEC's success can only be achieved through its people. Our staff continually

demonstrate their commitment to the Australian Public Service and AEC values and are very experienced in managing political and issue neutrality in their professional lives. The AEC also requires its staff to uphold political and issue neutrality when conducting themselves within their personal lives. The AEC's neutrality and professionalism can only be maintained through our staff continuing to exercise excellent judgement.

Conducting successful electoral events

It is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens to enrol and vote in federal elections, by-elections and referendums.

The AEC supports this by:

- providing a range of voting options and supporting greater equity of access
- monitoring and responding to voter turnout and formality.

The AEC also conducts Senate special counts¹ and delivers other elections and ballots as required or authorised by legislation. These include elections for the Torres Strait Regional Authority board and registered organisations, and protected action ballots.

Directed Level of Referendum Readiness dates are used to establish operational planning for the referendum. We do this by modifying the AEC's event planning tool to create the Referendum Ready Road Map.

On 1 April 2023, the AEC conducted a by-election for the seat of Aston. Results for this electoral event can be found at the **AEC Tally Room website**.

¹ A Senate special count may occur when a vacancy in the Senate (that is not a causal vacancy) should be filled. This is determined by the High Court of Australia sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns.

Election Readiness Framework

The Election Readiness Framework informs the way the AEC plans and conducts electoral events, evolving to meet increasing public and stakeholder expectations, and the challenges presented by a dynamic operating environment. It also ensures that our preparation and planning always responds within the context of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) and the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*.

The Government has indicated a referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament will proceed in the second half of 2023. The Election Readiness Framework has been adapted for a referendum, including implementing referendum readiness dates, the Referendum Ready Road Map, and a referendum readiness assessment plan. This is being implemented in parallel to the election readiness process for the next federal election in 2024/2025.

The last referendum was held over 20 years ago. Since then, many electoral procedures and legislative requirements have changed. The AEC has reviewed and updated essential policy and procedural doctrine to ensure they are suited to a referendum.

Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce

The Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce (EIAT) and the EIAT Board are constituted by relevant agencies across federal government. They work together to provide information and advice to the Electoral Commissioner on matters that may compromise the real or perceived integrity of a federal electoral event.

During 2022–23, the EIAT facilitated efficient and effective communication and coordination on matters relating to the integrity of the Aston by-election.

EIAT agencies did not identify any foreign interference, or any other interference, that compromised the delivery of the 2023 Aston by-election and would undermine the confidence of the Australian people in the results of the election. The EIAT also commenced preparations for its support for the 2023 Fadden by-election and proposed 2023 referendum.

Following a ‘lessons learnt’ process of the 2022 federal election, the EIAT carried out a comprehensive review of its governance. This included an update of its Operating Model and Incident Management Framework, as well as a review of membership for the EIAT.

At the request of the relevant state electoral commissioner, the EIAT also provided support for the New South Wales (March 2023) and Victorian (November 2022) state elections as well as the South Australian local government elections (November 2022).

During 2022–23, the EIAT Board comprised the following agencies:

- Australian Electoral Commission
- Department of Finance
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts
- Attorney-General’s Department
- Department of Home Affairs
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Signals Directorate
- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
- Office of National Intelligence.

Defending Democracy Unit

The Defending Democracy Unit (DDU) was cemented as an enduring capability to safeguard the integrity of the AEC’s processes. Through the DDU, the AEC responds in a coordinated and consistent manner to any threats to electoral integrity and Australia’s democracy. The DDU also provides the secretariat function for the EIAT.

Building on the AEC’s successful engagement with online media platforms during the 2022 federal election, through 2022–23 the DDU continued proactive work in this area. Across government, the AEC has been recognised for these partnerships, including those formalised through the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand’s (ECANZ) **Statement of Intent with online media platform** in December 2022.

Reputation management

Public trust in the AEC is intrinsically linked to trust in the integrity of Australia’s electoral processes and results. Maintaining this

trust is a critical part of the AEC’s role in defending Australia’s democracy. However, the AEC operates in an evolving information environment. The increasing circulation of misinformation and disinformation, myths and conspiracy theories about electoral processes and the AEC compounds the already significant complexity of electoral service delivery.

In 2022–23, the AEC updated its inaugural 2021 Reputation Management Strategy to create an all-encompassing, agency-wide *Reputation Management System (RMS)*. Upholding the AEC’s positive reputation and credibility is crucial to maintaining public trust in, and acceptance of, election results. The RMS equips the AEC to navigate the changing information environment and demonstrate our operational excellence to the Australian public.

The six RMS principles guide this active and transparent promotion of a positive, trusted reputation for the Australian electoral system.

Figure 2: Six guiding principles of AEC’s Reputation Management System

THE SIX RMS PRINCIPLES

The Reputation Management System (RMS) guides, sustains and enhances internal awareness and capabilities relating to the key AEC **activities** and **priorities** which contribute to maintaining a positive and trusted view of the AEC and the Australian electoral process.



In 2022–23, the AEC’s efforts in this area included several initiatives outlined below.

Disinformation register

A referendum-specific disinformation register was established, debunking myths spread about referendum processes. This iteration of the register also includes information for voters on techniques used by those trying to circulate misleading or deceptive information about an election or referendum process. Research shows that once someone is familiar with the techniques, they are more likely to be able to identify disinformation and be more resistant to future attempts to manipulate them.

Stop and consider campaign

Drawing once more on the *Stop and consider* campaign launched ahead of the 2019 and 2022 federal elections, the AEC continued to expand the advertising program ahead of federal electoral events, alerting people to *Stop and consider* the source of information they see, hear or read. *Stop and consider* will be in place for the proposed referendum.

AEC-TV

We use a range of internally produced short videos on AEC-TV – the AEC’s YouTube channel – to address areas of potential mis or disinformation regarding electoral processes. In the first quarter of 2023, the AEC launched the *Referendums: It’s been a while...* campaign. It aimed to educate Australians about the differences between federal elections and referendums, and dispel common myths around referendums, such as clarifying that the 2017 Marriage Law Postal Survey was neither a referendum nor a plebiscite. The education campaign draws on market research showing Australians have a low familiarity with referendums.

Social media

The AEC works with social media platforms including Meta, Twitter (‘X’ from July 2023), Google, Tencent, TikTok, Reddit, Microsoft and Snap, to address electoral disinformation posted to their platforms. This engagement continued in review of the 2022 federal election and re-commenced in 2023 in preparation for the proposed referendum.

Our strategies to combat electoral disinformation sit among a broader range of electoral safeguards, including procedural integrity, cyber security, physical security and the support of the EIAT.

Cyber security

The AEC continues to enhance its cyber security posture, as well as engaging with the EIAT and other partners, including the national intelligence community. Through this work, we mitigate cyber security threats to federal elections, by-elections, and referendums. This includes:

- undertaking regular testing and assurance activities and using independent and external expertise to assure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of AEC systems
- leveraging the AEC’s commercial relationship for independent cyber security monitoring of the AEC network and systems
- conducting incident response exercises to support the AEC’s cyber security response capability
- strengthening mitigation strategies to protect the AEC network, including the Australian Cyber Security Centre’s Essential 8 to mitigate against the risk of cyber intrusions
- ensuring staff complete mandatory cyber security awareness training

- continually improving the AEC's technical and people capability to manage cyber risks
- working with our supply chain to understand areas of cyber security risk and implementing appropriate mitigations where necessary.

The AEC embeds cyber security specialists in major projects from the point of initiation – and through the entire project lifecycle – to ensure cyber threats are understood and appropriately mitigated early in project deliverables. This investment reduces the likelihood of having to retrospectively implement expensive cyber security controls once the project moves to a 'business-as-usual' status.

We are improving cyber security detection capability and working closely with partners across federal government and the commercial sector to help manage emerging threats. This work is especially important to support the AEC's broader IT strategy to move more services to a cloud-based model. Irrespective of the infrastructure underpinning IT service delivery, the ability to monitor networks and respond quickly to unusual activity remains critical, both during electoral event delivery and business-as-usual.

AEC Command Centre

The AEC Command Centre (AECCC) provides a secure, leading edge, central point of command with an overarching view of the AEC's operations, year-round. It forms an integral part of our commitment to ensuring electoral integrity, driving nationally consistent service delivery and strengthening stakeholder confidence. The AECCC engages across government to increase inter-agency collaboration, including working with the National Situation Room, the Australian Federal Police and Australia Post. Through the centre, we monitor and mitigate potential risks to election integrity.

The AECCC went into 'Election Mode' for the first time on 4 April 2022 for the 2022 federal election, then on 27 February 2023 for the Aston by-election, and again on 12 June 2023 for the Fadden by-election. The team provided the National Election Manager, National Election Delivery Committee and Executive Leadership Team the overarching visibility required during these federal events. The AECCC's ability to rapidly raise issues supported velocity of decision-making to ensure organisational agility. Early inter-agency engagement helped resolve issues and secure uninterrupted election delivery.

Physical security

The safety of AEC staff and voters remains an absolute priority for the AEC. Regrettably, the physical security environment for electoral events around the world continues to deteriorate and Australia is not immune from threats of this nature.

The 2022 federal election saw a marked increase in physical security incidents perpetrated against AEC employees and property. The protective security team continues to build a robust culture through messaging – driven by senior manager support – and physical security upgrades in line with our Protective Security Policy Framework obligations.

A comprehensive security risk assessment is undertaken before each major electoral event, considered by the Electoral Integrity Committee. These assessments also cover broader environmental assessments by the national intelligence community. The AEC implements risk mitigation strategies to ensure physical security risks remain at acceptable levels.

The ongoing protective security improvement program provides a guide to the breadth of work the agency is currently undertaking

or has identified as a possible risk to be mitigated. This body of work should continue to further lift our maturity rating under the Australian Government's Protective Security Policy Framework.

Property management

The AEC manages a portfolio of 81 properties across Australia. These are predominantly office space, with three warehouses and five multipurpose sites consisting of office and warehouse space. The AEC has leased 51 temporary warehouses for the referendum.

National office accommodation joint approach to market

The AEC joined with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Education in a joint approach to market to source new accommodation for national office staff in the Canberra CBD. This approach culminated in the signing of an agreement in September 2021 to move into a newly constructed 70,000sqm building in 2027. Parliamentary approval for the move was granted in March 2023.

Information technology

In 2022–23, the Digital Technology branch continued preparing for by-elections and the upcoming referendum. Activities included:

- testing all critical election systems, applications and platforms to provide assurance for event readiness (including disaster recovery, penetration, and capacity/load testing)
- implementing system changes, enhancements and remediations to support the referendum
- provisioning and deployment of IT infrastructure, including equipment used as part of the Mobile Office Solution to out-posted centres during an event.

The branch also supported the delivery of Indigo Program Tranche 1 across all work packages and the preparation for transition of capabilities into business operations in the 2023–24 financial year.

The Modern Workplace Program provides the AEC with a consistent experience for all staff, supporting both AEC values and inclusivity. Implemented through a phased approach in 2022–23, the modern desktop helps increase productivity, mobility and satisfaction through modernised digital and collaboration capabilities. Regional and state offices were transitioned first to the new capability, followed by ACT/national office deployments.

Voter services

Postal voting

While elections are in-person community events and the AEC expects voters to turn out, Australians who cannot get to a polling booth can apply for a postal vote.

A total of 17,937 postal votes were issued at the 2023 Aston by-election. Of the voters who applied for a postal vote, 55 per cent did so online.

The AEC received 15,795 completed postal votes from electors before the 13-day deadline after polling day.

User-centred design enhancements to postal voting

Materials used for postal voting have been redesigned with user experience at the forefront, including a more intuitive Postal Vote Certificate layout and a simple-to-follow pamphlet to guide the voter to correctly complete and return their vote.

Mobile polling

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic environment, decisions around mobile polling for the 2022 federal election weighed the risk of

elector disenfranchisement against the risk of residents, facility staff or AEC staff contracting or transmitting COVID-19. In consultation with the Department of Health, the AEC is planning to return to a full service offering of mobile polling for the referendum.

Mobile polling continues to focus on electors most at risk of being disenfranchised as these electors do not have other viable options to vote. For the referendum, the AEC will offer mobile polling to all nursing homes nationally. We have also increased our service offering to include residential mental health care facilities and, based on the approval of the department of corrections, will offer mobile polling in prisons as much as possible.

The AEC has increased communication activities and has broadened education materials in preparation for delivering the mobile polling service. We have established an Aged Care Advisory Working Group to facilitate advice from the aged care sector. This group assists the AEC to improve enrolment and voting services.

The AEC established a Remote Voter Services Taskforce in September 2022 to expand services to Australians living in remote and very remote areas.

At the Aston by-election, mobile polling was delivered by two teams to 18 residential aged care facilities. The teams issued 443 ordinary votes.

Overseas voters

Voters who are abroad during a federal election or referendum period may be able to vote at an overseas voting centre or by post.

In-person voting services for Australians overseas were not offered at the Aston by-election (a normal setting for by-elections), but voters overseas could apply for a postal vote.

For the next federal electoral event, in-person voting services for Australians overseas will revert to pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, fast-tracked arrangements for overseas postal voting will continue and be strengthened. The AEC has worked closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade to entrench this service, reinforcing Australia's reputation as a global leader in access to democracy for its citizens.

Telephone voting

Voters who are blind or have low vision can cast a vote using the AEC's dedicated phone service from any location. This service is also available to electors in Antarctica.

The AEC focused on preparations for the referendum and reflecting and applying where appropriate, lessons learned from the 2022 federal election.

At the Aston by-election, telephone voting services were provided for voters who were blind or had low vision and for electors working in Antarctica. Telephone voting was available 8:30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday during the early voting period (20 March to Friday 31 March 2023) and from 8:00am to 6:00pm on election day 1 April 2023. We issued votes to 22 vision-impaired electors.

Electronic certified lists

The writs for each electoral event contain a deadline for Australian citizens to be included on the electoral roll. The roll is then used to create a certified list of voters for each division and each state and territory. The certified lists are used by AEC staff at each polling booth to manually mark off a voter as having attended a polling place and been issued a ballot paper vote.

At some polling places, the polling officials may use laptops instead of a paper certified list. This is known as an Electronic Certified List (ECL). An ECL is an alternative to the traditional paper certified list used to mark off electors as they receive their ballot papers, in electronic format on a device. ECLs enable polling officials to search the list of eligible electors more efficiently, improving polling place operations and meeting expectations of efficient voting services.

The AEC deployed 174 ECLs for the Aston by-election. They were used at all ordinary issuing points at mobile polling, early voting centres, and polling places on polling day. In total 78,904 ordinary votes were issued.

Results

Several factors have an impact on the speed of results and the AEC's ability to declare the poll, including legislative requirements. The AEC is required to wait 13 days after voting

day to receive declaration and postal votes before finalising the count.

Further, the AEC ensures mathematical certainty before declaring a result. The AEC must be assured absolutely that the margin in the count is larger than the potential number of votes left to receive.

After the 2022 federal election, a work group was convened to identify efficiencies in count and declaration processes for faster results at future electoral events.

The AEC also engages the Institute of Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation at Deakin University to assist with modelling and analysing data on polling and counting processes. This analysis has been used to inform resourcing required for the upcoming referendum to support timely results on polling night and throughout the post-polling day period.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY TWO

Intended result 2.1 The AEC maintains an appropriate level of election readiness

Performance measure

AEC-wide readiness achieved by the Directed Level of Electoral Readiness date (federal elections only)	Source	AEC Election Readiness Framework.
	Method & frequency	Undertaken as required at key times prior to each electoral event.
	Target	Agency-wide readiness meets the Directed Level of Election Readiness (DLER) date (federal elections only).
	Result	■ Met

Explanation of result: Readiness checks at the DLER date show no significant barriers to overall election readiness.

Result key ■ Met ■ On track to be met ■ Partly met ■ Not met

Intended result 2.2 The public and stakeholders have confidence the electoral process is well managed in accordance with legislation

Performance measure

The election result – for each event – is delivered in accordance with the Electoral Act	Source	Electoral Act, Electoral Commissioner’s advice published on www.aec.gov.au and outcomes of the Court of Disputed Returns.
	Method & frequency	For each electoral event, writs returned to the Governor-General or State Governors or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; Electoral Commissioner’s advice published on www.aec.gov.au and Court of Disputed Returns advice.
	Target	a) The writs for a federal election event are issued and returned in accordance with legislative requirements and timeframes. b) The AEC will report on the number of Court of Disputed Returns matters which challenge AEC conduct, and whether these challenges are dismissed or upheld in favour of the AEC.
	Result	■ Met

Explanation of result: The writ for the 2023 Aston by-election was issued and returned within the timeframes specified in the Electoral Act. The writ for the 2023 Fadden by-election was issued, and as at the time of reporting the writ is on track to be returned within the relevant timeframe in the Electoral Act.
No petitions were lodged within the legislative timeframe to the Court of Disputed Returns to challenge any election results during 2022–23.

Online enrolment

The AEC has worked to increase the number of people using its online enrolment facilities – the Online Enrolment Service (OES) and Webforms – to enrol or update their details. This work includes QR-coded materials directing electors to the OES, while still providing paper enrolment forms in selected outlets where the uptake of online services is limited.

In 2022–23:

- almost 3.1 million enrolment transactions were processed
- approximately 1.1 million transactions resulted from the Federal Direct Enrolment Update (FDEU) program, allowing the AEC to directly enrol and update elector details using third-party data.

In February 2023, the AEC sent emails or SMS messages to 397,000 potentially unenrolled people to prompt them to enrol.

First Nations enrolment

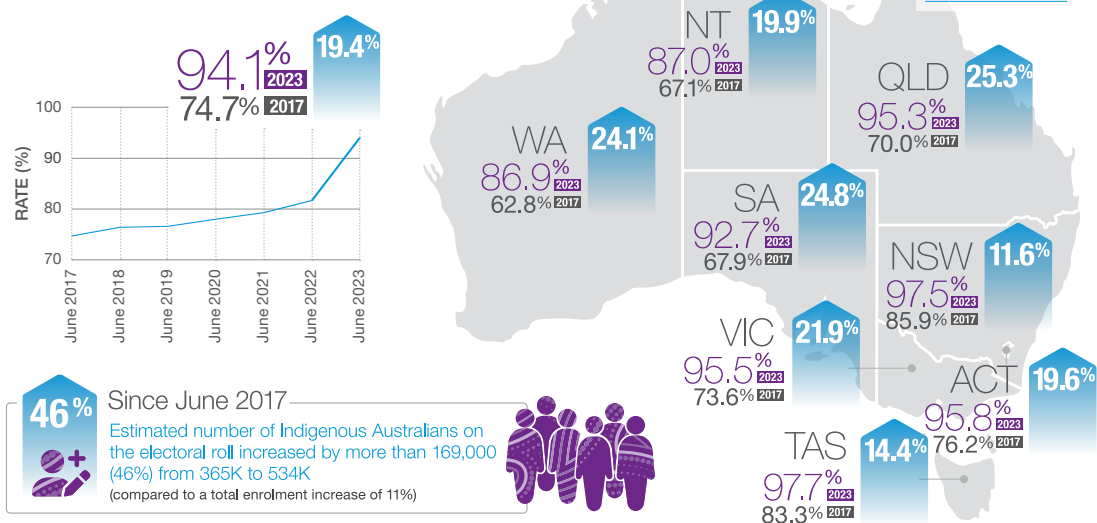
The AEC continues to undertake activities to extend the effectiveness of direct enrolment processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Direct enrolment involves using trusted third-party data to enrol people without them having to initiate the transaction. This aligns with the AEC’s ongoing improvements in user-centric service design.

During 2022–23, the AEC invested significant resources to increase the enrolment rates of First Nations people. In particular, the AEC implemented a range of changes to the FDEU program to better identify and enrol Indigenous people across the

Result key ■ Met ■ On track to be met ■ Partly met ■ Not met

Figure 3: Indigenous enrolment snapshot June 2017 to 30 June 2023

More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are enrolled to vote than ever before



country, including in remote and very remote Australia. This effort has resulted in an increase in the national Indigenous enrolment rate from 81.7 per cent at 30 June 2022 to 94.1 per cent at 30 June 2023.

Evidence of identity


The AEC also continues to work on making the enrolment process easier for eligible Australians. In February 2023, enrolment evidence of identity regulations changed. Medicare cards and Australian citizenship certificates, in addition to Australian driver’s licences and Australian passports, can now be used as valid forms of evidence of identity for enrolment purposes. This change has provided more options for eligible Australians to enrol to vote.


From the February 2023 change in the *Electoral and Referendum Regulation 2016* (up to 30 June 2023), the AEC approved more than 76,000 applications using Medicare as evidence of identity and around 11,500 applications using Australian citizenship certificates as evidence of identity.


Online attester changes

The AEC has also simplified the enrolment process for voters without an accepted identification document. In the past, voters without ID needed to print a form and have an enrolled voter vouch for their identity in writing. The AEC noted user feedback that paper forms were often cumbersome and a barrier to enrolling. Australians can now have an enrolled voter attest to their identity entirely online, further removing barriers to enrolment and in line with recent changes to evidence of identity regulations.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY TWO

Intended result 2.3 Accessible and high-quality enrolment and polling services		
Performance measure		
Percentage of enrolment transactions lodged online, including through the Online Enrolment Service	Source	Roll data from AEC enrolment systems and extracts.
	Method & frequency	Rates calculated monthly and reported annually at the end of each financial year. Also calculated at close of rolls for full federal elections.
	Target	>80%
	Result	 Met
<p>Explanation of result: The AEC is committed to enhancing and improving its online service to help Australians meet their enrolment obligations. This is an increasingly popular method for the Australian public to engage with their enrolment. A total of 88% of enrolment transactions were received in 2022–23 using the AEC’s online enrolment system.</p>		





Intended result 2.3 Accessible and high-quality enrolment and polling services		
Performance measure		
Voting locations (including early voting centres and polling places) published on the AEC website before polling commences	Source	AEC Election Management System data and www.aec.gov.au .
	Method & frequency	Publication on www.aec.gov.au for each electoral event.
	Target	100% of polling locations are published.
	Result	 Met
<p>Explanation of result: At the Aston by-election, the AEC published 100% of locations before polling commenced.</p>		

Intended result 2.3 Accessible and high-quality enrolment and polling services		
Performance measure		
After election night, count information is progressively updated on the AEC website	Source	AEC Election Management System data.
	Method & frequency	Publication on www.aec.gov.au for each electoral event.
	Target	Preliminary election results available on election night and progressive count information updated on www.aec.gov.au .
	Result	 Met
<p>Explanation of result: Election results for the Aston by-election were available at www.aec.gov.au. The AEC website was refreshed regularly throughout the day with updated election results from the AEC’s internal election management system. The system regenerated every 90 seconds during election night, and every 15 minutes after election night.</p>		

Lessons management


The AEC prioritises organisational agility and continuous improvement to help meet both the immediate needs of event delivery, and to respond to our operating environment. We adopt a lessons management approach for federal electoral events to improve the reliability and consistency of our electoral delivery and services.

The 2022 federal election lessons exercise involved engagement with staff across the AEC’s national, state, and divisional offices. Four strategic lessons were identified, with a focus on maturing our workforce model, enabling staff, managing our environment and change, and supporting compliance.

Result key  Met  On track to be met  Partly met  Not met

A range of supporting actions, both existing and new, has been designed to assist the organisation to improve and learn for an upcoming referendum, the next federal election and beyond.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY TWO

Intended result 2.3 Accessible and high-quality enrolment and polling services		
Performance measure		
Undertake a lessons management approach to delivering electoral events	Source	AEC Lessons Management Framework and AEC Election Readiness Framework.
	Method & frequency	Agency-wide qualitative analysis undertaken for each federal event.
	Target	Agency lessons identified from the previous electoral event are to be considered and implemented at the next electoral event.
	Result	 Met
<p>Explanation of result: The lessons phase for the 2022 federal election ran from June until November 2022. The Executive Leadership Team then agreed to four strategic lessons from the event and identified actions to support the learning of each lesson. Lessons areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> workforce enabling staff environment, change and contingencies compliance. <p>The AEC's governance committees continue to track the implementation of each of the strategic lessons.</p>		


Industrial elections and ballots

The AEC conducts industrial elections and ballots under the provisions of the *Fair Work Act 2009* and the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*. The AEC also conducted elections for the ABC's staff-elected board member position under the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Election of Staff-elected Director) Act 2012*.

Table 2: Industrial elections and ballots key figures

Industrial elections	Events	Decisions
	260	181
Protected action ballots (orders)		405
Official decisions and orders declared by the AEC		586

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY TWO

Intended result 2.4 Industrial election and ballots are designed for the future and delivered with integrity		
Performance measure		
Industrial election and ballot results are delivered with integrity and withstand scrutiny	Source	Federal Court outcomes.
	Method & frequency	Federal Court outcomes for the year as at reporting date.
	Target	The AEC will report on the outcomes and number of events in which the AEC's conduct is challenged before a court.
	Result	 Met
<p>Explanation of result: The AEC delivered 584 industrial elections and ballots during the reporting period. The AEC has successfully cleared a large backlog of industrial elections caused by the pandemic and events are progressing largely on schedule.</p> <p>There were no Federal Court activities during the reporting period.</p>		

Industrial elections and ballots – the case for change

Through our Industrial Elections and Ballots Program, the AEC conducts elections for office holders of organisations registered with the Fair Work Commission. We also hold protected action ballots, allowing employees to vote on initiating protected industrial action.

In 2022–23, the AEC delivered 261 industrial elections and 403 protected action ballots. Our team also conducted the ABC staff-chosen board member election and supported the National Indigenous Australians Agency in the delivery of an election for the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council.

Delivering this volume of industrial elections each year has always been a challenge, but the COVID-19 pandemic exposed a number of significant service delivery issues. The AEC was forced to suspend industrial election delivery during the pandemic, and operations did not return to normal service until mid-2022.

The pandemic is just one element of the AEC's complex operating environment when delivering these events, and the AEC is placing strategic importance on the development of a contemporary end-to-end service delivery model.

The need for change was highlighted during the running of several large and highly complex elections during the financial year. Some were conducted concurrently, like the Australian Rail Tram and Bus Industry Union/Transport Workers Union events. Elections for organisations such as these, with intricate internal structures and election rules, create significant risk and bring budget challenges. They can require a combination of delivery mechanisms and multiple timetabled events. While the AEC delivered the events to a high degree of integrity, the current service model and operating environment added additional risk and cost to the delivery.

The AEC's Industrial Elections and Ballots Section undertook significant work during 2022–23 to mature its approach and adapt to a high-risk environment. The section has implemented several project initiatives as part of its future service vision.

Our focus on service enhancement involves deep collaboration with registered organisations, the Fair Work Commission and other policy owners.

Key activity 3

Engage with our stakeholders through education and public awareness activities

The AEC delivers education, engagement and communication activities to support an Australian community that is well informed about electoral matters.

Ensuring Australians know and understand how to fully participate in electoral events requires outreach to ensure all eligible voters have the information and advice they need.

Our education and public awareness activities target all eligible voters and consider Australia's diverse population. Information, services, tools and strategic partnerships are developed for people who may need additional support to participate in the electoral process.

Undertaking public awareness activities

The AEC places great importance on enabling a large and diverse group of more than 17 million people to fulfil their right to vote, and their responsibility under Australia's compulsory voting system.

In keeping with the AEC's commitment to electoral integrity and maintaining public trust in our independent and impartial role, our advertising campaigns are evidence-based. They ensure wide reach to general population audiences as well as targeted approaches. In this way, we provide information to voters from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, First Nations peoples and people with disability.

In 2022–23, the AEC began developing a comprehensive national information and advertising campaign for the 2023 referendum. The aim was to provide all eligible voters with the awareness, information and knowledge to meaningfully

participate in a referendum. The campaign is of critical importance, given this type of event has not been held in Australia in over 20 years.

The campaign has five phases, including pre-event education, close of rolls, voter services, formality and combatting disinformation. The pre-event phase aims to explain the purpose and process of referendums, and address myths and misconceptions that may be circulating.

Early awareness communication and advertising started in April to promote referendum information and resources on the AEC website. In addition, an advertising campaign to increase the electoral participation of First Nations peoples was developed and launched in November 2022. Over two phases, the campaign aimed to raise awareness of how to enrol, and the ability to enrol or update details any time.

The campaign delivered:

- a significant increase in traffic to **www.aec.gov.au/Indigenous**
- over 8,000 TV ad spots across NITV, ICTV, Goolarri and Aboriginal TV Darwin
- over 4,000 radio spots broadcast across radio networks with national reach, and including targeted coverage within areas with lower enrolment rates
- over 18 million impressions on social media
- digital advertising with more than 80,000 click throughs to the AEC website.

The AEC also provides advice and information to voters who may require additional support. This includes information tailored for Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander peoples and translated information in a range of languages to support culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Public awareness resources on the AEC website range from videos to fact sheets and are designed to meet the needs of various community groups.

Education and communication initiatives started in 2022–23 with the development and rollout of a dedicated community education program. It was designed to enhance understanding of the referendum, why it's important, and how to complete a formal ballot paper. Online and face-to-face sessions were provided for people needing additional support to participate in referendums. Community education sessions were delivered to First Nations and multicultural audiences, including in language. In addition, information on the referendum was developed in Easy Read.

The AEC also commenced preparation of the Referendum Booklet. This will contain the Yes/No cases prepared by parliamentarians and the Official Guide prepared by the AEC, which explains voting services for the referendum. The Referendum Booklet will be sent to each address on the electoral roll and will also be available online. The Indigenous Electoral Participation Program delivers culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, supporting their electoral participation.

Under section 7(1)(fa) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act), and in close cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the AEC also helps international electoral management bodies.

Proactive strategies to build understanding about electoral processes, and to manage stakeholder and community expectations about electoral services, are critical to maintaining the integrity and reputation of Australia's electoral processes.

Community engagement

The AEC collaborates with communities and partner organisations to support electoral participation for key audiences. During the past financial year, activities focused on establishing partnerships with organisations that have reach into and are trusted by communities. Our partners are pivotal to successful engagement and service delivery, enabling us to deliver engagement initiatives and electoral services in an accessible and culturally suitable way.

The AEC's key audiences include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- voters from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- voters with disability
- voters experiencing homelessness
- young people (aged 16 to 24 years of age)
- eligible voters in prison.

The AEC's community enabled model ensures we can work closely with key audiences to:

- understand barriers to electoral participation specific to each audience
- create and distribute information and education materials in an accessible and inclusive format
- harness existing relationships through partner organisations to promote electoral participation
- extend our digital reach and footprint.

Indigenous Australians

The AEC is working to support electoral participation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through the Indigenous Electoral Participation Program (IEPP). The IEPP aims to deliver effective and culturally appropriate services to First Nations people.

During the reporting period, the IEPP focused on partnering with Indigenous-led organisations and other service providers. These partnerships identified culturally and regionally appropriate opportunities to enable electoral participation.

Adopting a co-design approach, the AEC worked with more than 80 Indigenous community partners who led and championed localised, culturally appropriate engagement in their communities. Activities included working to:

- undertake enrolment activities
- deliver voter education workshops
- create in-language education materials
- attend community events focused on enrolment, formality, and temporary election workforce employment opportunities
- promote electoral participation through digital engagement activities
- deliver targeted youth engagement initiatives.

Following the 2022 federal election and in the lead-up to the 2023 referendum, the AEC has continued to build its suite of information and educational materials for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voters. This includes providing a range of education resources to be delivered by AEC community engagement staff and partners.

First Nations representation within the temporary election workforce remains a priority for the AEC. During the reporting period, the AEC reviewed its strategy for increasing the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as part of the temporary election workforce. The AEC employed more Indigenous temporary election workers than ever before in the 2022 federal election. In preparing for the proposed referendum we will continue to focus on promoting a diverse and inclusive workforce.

The IEPP prioritises increasing the estimated Indigenous enrolment rate and has implemented a range of enrolment initiatives. For example, the AEC has partnered with government organisations in Western Australia and the Northern Territory to roll out a remote enrolment program.

The AEC chairs the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ) Indigenous Electoral Participation Working Group. This forum allows members to share knowledge and resources, and to collaborate to improve electoral participation of First Nations people at federal, state, and local levels. In the financial year, the working group focused on increased collaboration and distributing electoral participation materials amongst members' respective networks.

IEPP activities in the context of referendum readiness

IEPP electoral education and enrolment work is continuing in the lead-up to the 2023 referendum. The IEPP team continues to grow, building capacity for greater levels of engagement and partnership development.

The IEPP is continuing to promote enrolment at community events and undertake community engagement work in partnership with Indigenous community organisations and Indigenous service providers. The AEC's neutrality requirements are critically important to the IEPP's community engagement work. Our IEPP representatives attend community events in a neutral capacity to support eligible voters to enrol. When partnering with external organisations, neutrality is a core requirement and is included in the partnership agreement (see **page 22**).

People with disability

The AEC works to make electoral participation accessible. A key part of this is the enhancement of accessible information, services, accessibility of polling places

and employment for people with disability. We also have a range of accessible materials to enable voting.

The AEC collaborates with leaders and peak bodies in the disability community through its Disability Advisory Committee. Members provide feedback on accessible materials, policies and communications products, and also promote key messages to their networks. The Disability Advisory Committee offers valuable input on a range of service offerings to enable electoral participation, federally and for state and territory elections.

Disability reporting mechanisms

The AEC provides a variety of education and communication initiatives to meet the needs of Australians with disability. These initiatives and relevant data are reported through the Department of Social Services Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031, the annual Australian Public Service Commission State of the Service report, and the APS Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available at www.dss.gov.au and www.apsc.gov.au.

The agency introduced a Disability Contact Officer role in 2022–23, which provides AEC employees with disability, their managers, and colleagues with a knowledgeable point of contact. This role is designed to help people navigate systems and access support within the agency.

Electors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

The AEC collaborates with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to support electoral participation by developing and disseminating electoral information.

The AEC continued working with service providers to produce culturally appropriate in-language electoral participation resources to support people from CALD backgrounds and to deliver education sessions, including in language.

The AEC has developed a wide range of translated materials to enable access to electoral participation and to inform people how to register to work at the election. It also provides an interpreter service.

People experiencing homelessness

People experiencing homelessness or with no fixed address are supported to vote. Homelessness service providers and other relevant organisations help distribute AEC resources promoting enrolment and electoral participation.

Youth

The AEC prioritises engaging with young people to encourage their participation in elections. The AEC targets young people extensively through digital and non-digital channels.

Within the IEPP, a key priority has been securing youth-focused partnerships. This has included partnering with a number of youth-led organisations, particularly those with a strong online presence, to deliver electoral engagement activities for young people. The AEC works with young people in regional and remote communities through a range of initiatives – programs via partners, and also direct employment with the AEC – to distribute accessible information on enrolling, voting, and working for the AEC.

People in prison

The AEC recognises people in prison have unique requirements for electoral participation. We are taking proactive steps to increase enrolment and improve access to voting services for the referendum.

The two key enrolment initiatives are a Federal Direct Enrolment Update (FDEU) trial and establishing a dedicated support team in each state office to provide information,

materials, and assistance to prisons across Australia. These teams offer a new service aiming to increase the number of prisoners who are enrolled, and to improve enrolment accuracy for these electors.

To help improve access to voting services, the AEC works closely with corrections authorities in each jurisdiction to ensure people in prison can access either a postal vote or a mobile polling service. Where mobile polling is unavailable, support teams will work directly with prison staff to provide information and assistance on the postal voting process, including the legislative timeframes for completion.

The AEC has increased communication with a range of stakeholders to outline our work to increase electoral participation and ensure people know the support options available. We have also updated our information on enrolling and voting for people in prison. This is available to people in prison, correctional centre staff and others supporting these electors.

Education

The National Training and Education Unit leads and coordinates training and professional development for the AEC’s workforce. It also delivers electoral education to external audiences. Schools can visit the National Electoral Education Centre in Canberra for electoral education programs. The AEC for Schools website <https://education.aec.gov.au> provides free educational resources and programs, including materials to run school elections. Professional learning opportunities are also provided to teachers to encourage electoral education in primary and secondary schools. *Writs to Referendums: Celebrating Australia’s unique electoral system* is a dedicated interactive exhibition now open to the public at the Museum of Australian Democracy. It showcases Australia’s democratic electoral system and the role of the AEC.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY THREE

Intended result 3.1 Enable Australians to participate in electoral events and understand electoral matters

Performance measure

Deliver public awareness and education products that target all Australian citizens aged 18 years and over	Source	Campaign evaluation report.
	Method & frequency	Specific communication activities delivered for mainstream and identified special audience groups measured for each federal election.
	Target	The AEC’s public awareness campaign is delivered in accordance with key objectives outlined in the campaign strategy.
	Result	■ Met

Explanation of result: In 2022–23, independent market research was sought regarding the 2022 federal election campaign and media performance. In both reports, the key findings showed the campaigns had performed well. The AEC also delivered other public awareness and education products in preparing for the 2023 referendum, including:

- launch of the *Writs to Referendum* exhibition at the Museum for Australian Democracy, with an average of 4,072 visitors a month since opening 29 November 2022
- community education sessions
- preparing the *Stop and consider* campaign for the referendum
- producing short AEC-TV videos to address areas of potential misinformation or disinformation regarding electoral processes
- running the *Referendums: It’s been a while...* campaign to educate Australians about referendums.

Result key ■ Met □ On track to be met ■ Partly met ■ Not met

Celebrating Australia's unique electoral system at the Museum of Australian Democracy

In 2022–23, the AEC progressed its commitment to enhance and expand the delivery of electoral education. An innovative public exhibition, *Writs to Referendums: Celebrating Australia's unique electoral system*, within the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House, opened on 29 November 2022.

Funded by the Australian Government in the 2020–21 Budget, this dedicated exhibition showcases Australia's democratic electoral system to the public. It provides engaging interactive and visual displays to inform citizens and encourage them to play a more active role in electoral matters.

On arrival, visitors to the exhibition see floating ballot papers, projected on the floor and walls. These images lead to a visual representation of the fundamental elements of our federal electoral system. An interactive touchscreen explains the redistribution process and lets visitors search for their representatives. A link directly to the Australian Parliament House website allows people to search for additional information.

A timeline of important milestones, alongside historical objects and a collection of vintage AEC posters, shows Australia's electoral history. Visitors explore the features, innovations and myths of the Australian electoral system using the interactive touch tables and screens throughout the exhibition. They can scan a QR code and link, in real time, to the AEC website to check their enrolment status on the Australian Electoral Roll.

The exhibition also provides visitors with a look at the significant work that goes on behind the scenes to deliver federal elections. It documents the experiences of the many Australians who help make elections happen. 'Our Vote, The Story of Australian Elections' is a 10-minute documentary video, filmed during the 2022 federal election, covering the entire writ-to-writ process and features commentary from voters, temporary election workers, party workers, scrutineers and AEC staff.


The delivery of the exhibition was overseen by a joint AEC and MoAD Steering Committee and a Memorandum of Understanding was developed between the parties to formalise the occupancy arrangements of the exhibition within MoAD. The exhibition is currently scheduled to run for two years with the option to extend for a further two years.

Since the exhibition's opening in November 2022, there has been a steady flow of visitors, averaging 4,072 a month.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY THREE

Intended result 3.1 Enable Australians to participate in electoral events and understand electoral matters


Performance measure

Percentage of 18 to 24-year-old Australians enrolled (youth enrolment rate)	Source	Roll data from AEC enrolment systems and ABS population data.
	Method & frequency	Rates calculated monthly and published quarterly. Also measured and reported for each federal election.
	Target	≥87%
	Result	 Met

Explanation of result: The national youth enrolment rate increased to 90.3% at 30 June 2023.

Intended result 3.1 Enable Australians to participate in electoral events and understand electoral matters

Performance measure

Deliver electoral participation activities to support AEC priority groups	Source	Assessment against AEC Targeted Engagement Framework 2020–2023.
	Method & frequency	Assessment of activities for the year as at each reporting date.
	Target	Assessment of activities delivered in accordance with the AEC Targeted Engagement Framework 2020–2023.
	Result	 Met

Explanation of result: In 2022–23, the AEC worked with new and existing partners to grow its community-led engagement model aimed at addressing local challenges to electoral participation for AEC priority groups. These partnerships provide an opportunity for the AEC to:





- develop and increase electoral participation digital products, including videos, factsheets, social media tiles and in-language resources
- deliver targeted enrolment activities in remote locations
- deliver a targeted communication and advertising campaign to encourage more First Nations peoples to enrol to vote
- continue to explore opportunities to enhance services for people with disability.

The AEC is closely monitoring real and perceived risks to the AEC’s political and issue neutrality that may emerge through partnerships with external organisations. All partners and prospective partners engage in discussions with the AEC to determine their neutrality regarding the 2023 referendum. The contracts and collaborative activities of partners who cannot guarantee issue neutrality are paused until after the referendum.

The AEC’s education centre

Based at Old Parliament House in Canberra, the National Electoral Education Centre (NEEC) provides a free, interactive, education program where visitors experience the entire writ-to-writ election process during their 90-minute session. This high-quality program is linked to the Australian curriculum for schools and facilitated by our dedicated team of expert electoral educators.

In 2022–23, 2,175 education sessions were delivered to 76,089 visitors from 140 divisions at the NEEC. Visitors included 64,605 primary school students, 4,199 secondary students and 7,285 adults. Numbers projected using current bookings indicate that the NEEC will have over 85,000 visitors in the 2023–24 financial year. Reported figures and projections provide a strong indication that the centre is returning to pre-COVID capacity.

Result key  Met  On track to be met  Partly met  Not met

The majority of our 1.6 million visitors over the last 22 years of operation have been interstate school excursions. In addition, we have hosted international delegations, Parliamentary stakeholders, community groups and AEC staff, visiting the NEEC to learn the fundamentals of the electoral system. Exit surveys reflect the success of the NEEC program, with the NEEC receiving satisfaction ratings of over 96.5 per cent from students and 98.5 per cent from teachers.

AEC for Schools Program

In July 2022, the AEC for Schools website was redesigned to align it with the AEC’s new education branding. This financial year, the site has recorded over 117,000 unique page views. One of the most popular programs hosted on the site is **Get Voting**. Get Voting election packs were sent to 283 schools, with a reported 34,563 students involved in school elections.

Referendum education

Visitors can choose between House of Representatives, Senate or Referendum sessions at the NEEC, and this financial year we delivered 19 referendum sessions to 493 students.

The AEC’s referendum education offerings were also supported by new community education sessions and resources, with an initial focus on referendums. Key audiences for 2022–23 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and CALD communities.

Digital education offerings

The AEC explores opportunities to engage with schools who are unable to attend the NEEC in Canberra. A digital studio space is being installed at the NEEC, from where the AEC can deliver and record elements of our education offering. A pilot began in March 2023, delivering a virtual adaptation of the NEEC referendum session to AEC staff around Australia.

Building on the success of the 3D game visitors experience at the NEEC, the AEC has developed a game schools and students will be able to download and use in the classroom. The game is due to be released across Australia in 2023–24.

The AEC’s education program is highly regarded. These important projects help us expand our education to wider audiences and showcase our leadership in electoral education and election management.


PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY THREE

Intended result 3.2 Enhance understanding of Australia’s electoral system		
Performance measure		
Annual visitors to the National Electoral Education Centre (NEEC)	Source	AEC visitor data captured via the NEEC online booking system.
	Method & frequency	Visitor attendance reported annually.
	Target	No target. Report NEEC visitor numbers in 2022–23. New baseline to be determined for the Corporate Plan 2023–24.
	Result	■ Met
<p>Explanation of result: The AEC’s National Electoral Education Centre delivered an average of eight education programs a day during the reporting period, enhancing understanding of Australia’s electoral system for 76,089 visitors.</p> <p>This number of visitors is higher than those reported in the previous reporting periods where NEEC visitor numbers were significantly affected by COVID lockdowns, travel restrictions, bushfires, floods, and the closure of the NEEC to undertake refurbishment.</p>		

Result key ■ Met ■ On track to be met ■ Partly met ■ Not met

Intended result 3.2 Enhance understanding of Australia's electoral system


Performance measure

Visitor satisfaction rates at the NEEC	Source	AEC NEEC visitor satisfaction survey.
	Method & frequency	Visitor satisfaction rates at the NEEC.
	Target	≥90%
	Result	 Met

Explanation of result: Satisfaction surveys were collected from teachers and students after NEEC education sessions. Teacher satisfaction reached 98.5% and student satisfaction 96.5%.

Intended result 3.2 Enhance understanding of Australia's electoral system


Performance measure

Maintain the number of unique online visitors to AEC for Schools website	Source	AEC for Schools website.
	Method & frequency	Analytics of unique visits to AEC for Schools website reported annually.
	Target	≥200,000
	Result	 Not met

Explanation of result: The AEC for Schools website continues to be a trusted source of information that enables school students to enhance their understanding of Australia's electoral system. A total of 169,566 page views were recorded during the reporting period. Of these, 117,982 were unique website views.

Intended result 3.2 Enhance understanding of Australia's electoral system

Performance measure

Teacher professional learning participant numbers	Source	AEC Learning Management System data and attendance at in-person or online sessions.
	Method & frequency	Professional learning participation rates reported annually.
	Target	No target. Report teacher professional learning participant numbers in 2022–23. New baseline to be determined for the Corporate Plan 2023–24.
	Result	 Met

Explanation of result: The AEC welcomed 194 total participants in the teacher professional learning program during the reporting period. All participants completed the AEC's self-directed online teacher professional learning program.

Key activity 4

Maintain a capable and agile organisation and continue to professionalise our workforce

Building and maintaining a capable and agile organisation and professional workforce is critical to delivering electoral events.

To ensure we can respond to changing legislation, policy, community expectations and our environment, we must continue to develop our agility and capability.

We do this by refining our organisational structure, focusing on key aspects of governance and assurance, and modernising our enrolment and election systems and processes.



The AEC's workforce is unique and multitiered. Our talent includes Australian Public Service (APS) employees engaged under the *Public Service Act 1999*, statutory appointments, contractors, our

election surge workforce, and our very large temporary election workforce.

The AEC Learning and Professional Development Strategy 2020–2025 guides our approach to learning and development, future investment, workforce capability and agility.

In 2022–23, the AEC established the Event Workforce Optimisation Taskforce. This dedicated unit is developing pathways to build a capable, agile and responsible workforce. Its goal is to meet current and future needs for the AEC while improving the experience for our temporary election workforce. The taskforce works closely with AEC business areas as well as reaching into the broader APS and other key stakeholders to extend the capability and diversity of the temporary election workforce.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY FOUR

Intended result 4.1 Develop and maintain a professional, talented and agile workforce		
Performance measure		
Percentage of identified APS employees undertaking specific training relevant to their role	Source	AEC Learning Management System.
	Method & frequency	Training completion data measured annually.
	Target	≥ 95%
	Result	 Met
Percentage of TEW employees completing election training relevant to their role	Source	AEC Learning Management System.
	Method & frequency	Training completion data for each federal electoral event.
	Target	≥ 95%
	Result	 Met
<p>Explanation of result: In 2022–23, the AEC focused its efforts on designing and delivering national learning and development programs. These will build and enhance our critical operational and leadership capabilities in the APS as well as our temporary election workforce staff relevant to referendum readiness and delivery. The Operational Leaders Program, the AEC's flagship operational training program, was delivered over a 13-week period incorporating the completion of eLearning courses, self-directed and small group learning activities, participation in virtual and in-person training sessions and national rehearsals.</p> <p>The AEC also provides staff with a range of ongoing learning and development programs that build and develop APS knowledge and skills. A 99% completion rate was achieved in training focused on core APS knowledge and skill requirements.</p> <p>For the Aston by-election, online training was assigned and required to be completed by all 420 staff across 494 temporary election workforce roles. A 100% completion rate was achieved at this electoral event.</p>		

4.2 Invest in organisational capability and governance

Performance measure

Increase agency-level governance maturity in the areas of risk management, protective security, privacy and information management	Source	AEC strategies, surveys and plans, including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking survey • National Archives of Australia's 'Check-up PLUS' survey and reports • Protective Security Policy Framework • AEC Privacy Management Plan.
	Method	Survey benchmarking using Commonwealth frameworks and agency maturity assessments for protective security and information management measured annually. Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking survey measured biennially. Qualitative assessment on privacy management performed annually as at reporting date.
	Target	Increase or maintain maturity against identified Commonwealth surveys or plans.
	Result	■ Met

Explanation of result: Our risk management maturity is assessed through the Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking Program. It has an overall rating of 'embedded', which is above average. In each area of focus, the AEC performed better than the average score of all the agencies that are part of Comcover. It achieved the highest score (Advanced) in the risk governance area, and moved from a score of 'Defined' to 'Embedded' for the risk culture and risk capability areas of focus.

The AEC was the winner of the 2022 Commonwealth Award for Excellence in Risk Management in the 'Risk in Focus – Shared Risk' category based on the shared risk project for the Secure Telephone Voting.

The AEC's security posture continues to improve, and we have commenced annual maturity reporting against the Protective Security Policy Framework maturity report. No unmitigated security risks have been identified and the AEC is still assessed as operating within risk tolerance levels, as expressed in the agency's risk appetite statement, despite the overall rating of 'developing'.

The AEC focuses on the physical security of all stakeholders – including voters, staff and supply chain partners – in a changing physical security threat environment. The Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce continues to focus on managing physical security threats and maintaining its close working relationship with law enforcement agencies.

The AEC's Privacy Management Plan documents our approach to managing the personal information of over 17 million Australian electors.

During 2022–23, the AEC undertook several initiatives, including:

- embedding 'priority privacy' as an annual awareness activity mandatory for all staff
- running a scenario exercise for a major data breach which tested the Data Breach Response Plan and the Incident and Crisis Management Framework
- centralising the handling of all silent elector information into a single team of staff with specific knowledge and skill sets.

In December 2022, the AEC created a role and appointed a dedicated privacy officer. The privacy officer is responsible for the AEC's Privacy Management Plan, devising and delivering privacy training for all staff, and establishing state privacy champions to further promote privacy awareness and actions in each state.

The AEC also conducts an annual review of the Privacy Management Plan, currently underway.

The AEC continues to mature its information management practices and frameworks, reflected in the clear improvement in the 2022 Check-up PLUS survey results.

In 2022–23, the AEC has conducted an enterprise data maturity assessment, with insights leveraged to create the AEC's Information and Data and Information Management Strategy. Additionally, an AEC metadata standard is being reviewed and updated to include the National Archives of Australia's Building Trust in the Public Record Policy requirements.

Result key ■ Met □ On track to be met ■ Partly met ■ Not met

Focus on privacy

In late 2022, the personal information of millions of Australians was accessed in cyber-attacks on a range of companies.

In response, the Australian Government introduced a series of measures including a joint taskforce involving the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Signals Directorate, and legislation to increase penalties for serious or repeated privacy breaches. The *Privacy Act 1988* is also under review by the Attorney-General's Department to ensure Australia's privacy framework is fit for purpose and responds to new challenges in the digital era.

These high-profile privacy breaches highlight how critical it is for the AEC to maintain appropriate privacy and cyber security settings for the management and protection of personal data. The agency is rolling out a range of initiatives to improve and consolidate our approach to privacy.

Privacy officer

With public concern rising around privacy, the AEC must have a first point of contact for privacy matters within the agency, responsible for ensuring the management of day-to-day operational privacy activities.

The AEC appointed a full-time dedicated privacy officer in December 2022. The privacy officer has published several resources and tools to raise awareness within the AEC and make privacy outcomes more accessible to all staff. In addition, the privacy officer delivered scenario-based face-to-face training in each state and territory.

Silent Elector Processing Cell

In February 2022, the AEC launched an audit into privacy management, undertaken by an independent provider. The audit identified that the then existing model for silent elector processing did not reflect best practice. The model relied on a decentralised process where state and divisional offices would process silent elector personal information. The decentralised process created a risk of developing local practices that did not strictly align with the AEC's approved policy, procedures and expectations.

Silent elector enrolment was gradually transitioned into this centralised team from May 2023. The Silent Elector Processing Cell will be fully operational from October 2023 when this phased approach is complete.

Centralising this work will enable the agency to manage risks and strengthen privacy management processes associated with silent electors. This also minimises the potential of physical harm or emotional stress at the unintended release of private information, which in turn reduces possible financial and reputation cost to the AEC.

The AEC is entrusted with large quantities of personal information, and it is a priority and a privilege for us to manage and protect this data. Privacy, and the proper management of personal details, is integral to building and maintaining trust and public confidence in the AEC.

Every year the AEC takes part in the National Archives of Australia's (NAA) annual Check-up survey. The survey provides a baseline for agencies to track their progress against the requirements in the NAA's Building Trust in the Public Record policy (2021) and against other agencies of a similar size. The AEC's 2022 survey report reflects an overall maturity rating of 3.2 out of a possible score of 5. This shows a clear improvement from the 2021 survey score of 2.34. The AEC continues to work on building the foundational skills required to improve information and data maturity, fostering trust with the public and the way people see the agency.

Modernising the AEC's election and enrolment systems

The AEC is undergoing a business-led transformation.

In the 2023–24 Budget, the Government announced its commitment to fund and commence the second tranche of the Australian Electoral Commission's Election Systems Modernisation Program (called Indigo) – a once-in-a-generation investment to modernise Australia's election management systems, the cornerstone of our operations. This funding represents the largest single investment in the AEC since its inception.

The funding will be used to strengthen Australia's electoral integrity and ensure the systems delivering democratic processes are able to cope with emerging threats.


This investment will build on core capabilities delivered under the first tranche of the program, announced in the 2020–21 Budget, including capabilities to support effective supply chain and temporary workforce management. It will also improve the citizen experience and better safeguard their data, replacing legacy election management systems with modern, secure and citizen-focused technologies.

Update on Tranche 1 delivery

Tranche 1 of the Indigo Program is well underway and is expected to complete technical delivery in 2023–24. Tranche 1 includes delivery of the mission-critical TEW system to support efficient onboarding, training and payment of over 100,000 temporary election workers. These workers are required to deliver each electoral event. Another feature is the new Enterprise Integration capability, enabling seamless integration with other systems. The program's first tranche will also deliver an enterprise service management solution. This includes an enhanced Election Contact Centre capability providing voters with easy access to election information.

Tranche 1 of the program saw the delivery of the inaugural AEC Command Centre (AECCC) in 2021–22 to support election delivery and daily AEC operations. The AECCC successfully supported the delivery of the 2022 federal election, the most complex election in Australia's history (see **page 26** for more information).

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT – KEY ACTIVITY FOUR

Intended result 4.3 Implement systems and processes that are sustainable, relevant and modern to support election planning and delivery		
Performance measure		
Progress the modernisation of the AEC's core election and roll management systems	Source	Program documentation and reporting.
	Method & frequency	Governance reporting mechanisms (including internal and external assurance) as guided by program structure and documentation.
	Target	Meet the key program milestones associated with the procurement, delivery, execution and de-commissioning of these systems.
	Result	 Partly met
<p>Explanation of result: The program has adjusted milestones and delivery schedules in response to unpredictable electoral event activity and to effectively manage risks and maintain quality outcomes. To ensure delivery, the program actively monitors and manages risks and issues, adopting modern service design practices. Tranche 1 is on track for completion in 2023–24 and will include delivery of new and updated items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Election Workforce System • Supply Chain Management system • Enterprise Service Management platform (ServiceNow) replacing the AEC Service Centre • Enterprise Integration Platform • Identity Access Management capability. 		

Regulator performance

The Australian Government is committed to reducing the cost of unnecessary and inefficient regulation imposed on individuals, business and community organisations. In line with this, the AEC reports annually on its performance in reducing the regulatory burden for electors through more efficient enrolment and voting services. The AEC's performance is measured against the principles of regulator best practice in assessing our regulatory performance.

The principles of regulator best practice are:

- continuous improvement and building trust – regulators adopt a whole-of-system perspective, continuously improving their performance, capability and culture to build trust and confidence in Australia's regulatory settings
- risk-based and data-driven – regulators manage risks proportionately and maintain essential safeguards while minimising regulatory burden, and leveraging data and digital technology to support those they regulate to comply and grow
- collaboration and engagement – regulators are transparent and responsive communicators, implementing regulations in a modern and collaborative way.





Result key  Met  On track to be met  Partly met  Not met

Table 3: AEC performance against the regulator performance guide

What the AEC does	Result	Mandatory performance indicator reference
The AEC maintains an up-to-date public register of political parties.	✓	See Key activity 1
We regulate the funding and disclosure scheme, ensuring disclosure returns are published and regulated in accordance with timeframes.	✓	See Key activity 1
We undertake regular compliance reviews to examine a sample of disclosure returns. We and use a risk-based approach to compliance. The outcomes of compliance activity are published at www.aec.gov.au	✓	See Key activity 1
We administer the funding and disclosure scheme, political party registrations and electoral authorisations. We provide guidance and information to ensure stakeholders are aware of the need to comply with electoral legislation as well as the 'how-to'.	✓	<p>Under the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>, the funding and disclosure scheme establishes transparency around political donations. The electoral authorisations scheme requires electoral participants to be transparent to voters with the electoral communications they make.</p> <p>Guidance and information are provided to stakeholders at www.aec.gov.au, through our public enquiry line, and through a dedicated phone number for funding and disclosure matters.</p> <p>Stakeholders with disclosure obligations under the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> are also provided with written reminders of those obligations at appropriate times.</p> <p>Also see Key activity 1.</p>
We apply a risk-based proportionate response in addressing multiple voting and non-voter prosecutions, and in administering electoral communications requirements.	✓	<p>A risk-based approach is taken to address multiple voting and non-voter prosecutions, and in administering the funding and disclosure, and electoral communication requirements.</p> <p>Where necessary the AEC provides notices and warnings to regulated individuals and entities to inform them of their obligations.</p>
We continue to improve our risk management maturity to build organisational capability. We have revised our strategic and enterprise risks, published in the <i>AEC Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> . We are also maturing and embedding our lessons management approach and capability.	✓	See Key activity 1 and 4.
We manage feedback and complaints in line with the AEC complaints management policy and seek improvements in administration when relevant.	✓	Our service charter outlines the agency's role and purpose, and the services the public can expect to receive. The AEC manages complaints in line with the AEC Complaints Management Policy.



SECTION 04

International highlights 2022–23

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

Key contributions to the AEC's story over the last year

International highlights 2022–23

International engagement

This year, the AEC continued its commitment to supporting democracy in the region and building the technical capacity of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) in the Indo-Pacific.

The AEC provides assistance to foreign countries for elections and referendums under section 7(1)(fa) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

Our work is underpinned by strong relationships, developed over the last three decades, and ongoing funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

We also work closely and collaboratively with our international development partners, including the New Zealand Electoral Commission (NZEC), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Election preparation in the Pacific

A key focus for 2022–23 was assisting the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission (PNGEC) with Papua New Guinea's national general election in July 2022.

The AEC supported the PNGEC with several essential preparation activities in 2021–22, including leading a donor coordination group and procuring critical materials such as ballot papers.

During the polling period in July 2022, the AEC deployed three technical advisors

to support the PNGEC and IFES with the management of the National Election Coordination Centre (NECC). The NECC employed local staff who collected information from returning officers in the field to compile a daily report for the PNGEC's senior management team to help decision-making.

In the lead-up to the election, the AEC supported the PNGEC to develop a training manual and deliver a training workshop for their Provincial Logistics Assistants (PLAs). In the 2022–23 financial year, the AEC built on this work by assisting the PNGEC with a workshop for the PLAs. AEC staff also attended the PNGEC's national lessons learned workshop in November 2022.

The AEC supported the Fijian Elections Office (FEO) in its preparations for Fiji's 2022 general election. The AEC sent staff to Fiji to present at a stakeholder forum on voter participation. Staff participated in a FEO writ-to-writ planning workshop and deployed three AEC technical advisors to help the FEO during the election period. AEC technical advisors worked in partnership with the FEO's divisional managers to support all aspects of election preparation and delivery in Fiji's Central, Eastern and Western Divisions. AEC staff also participated in the FEO's post-election review in March 2023, supporting FEO to reflect on and document lessons from the 2022 event.

AEC staff deployed to Solomon Islands in November 2022 to meet with the Solomon Islands Electoral Office (SIEO) and DFAT to plan AEC support in preparation for the 2024

national general election. In February 2023, AEC staff again deployed to Solomon Islands to attend SIEO's national planning workshop and to facilitate a session on donor coordination. In April 2023, the AEC provided advice on several electoral reforms currently under examination by SIEO. Further, the AEC worked with the SIEO to develop a manual and training plan for their voter registration exercise, scheduled for August 2023.

This year, the AEC assisted the Office of the Bougainville Electoral Commission with by-elections for both Bougainville's Community Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government. The priority for this assistance was the procurement and transport of critical election materials and personnel.

The AEC also supported the Electoral Commission, Kingdom of Tonga (Electoral Commission) to prepare for the 2023 District and Town Officer elections held in May 2023. In March 2023 the AEC worked with the Electoral Commission and NZEC to revise the Electoral Commission's Community Outreach Strategy. In the lead-up to the election the AEC supported elections communications, the provision of elections materials, helped with election delivery on remote islands, and deployed two technical advisors to assist Electoral Commission staff over the election period. The AEC technical advisors worked in collaboration with Electoral Commission staff to support election communication and the operational delivery of the election.

The Pacific Islands, Australia, and New Zealand Electoral Administrators (PIANZEA) Network has continued to foster connections and deliver activities for Network members, with support from its AEC-hosted Secretariat. Through PIANZEA, the AEC and NZEC collaborated to support Tokelau to develop new National Election Rules and procedures. These were used at Tokelau's

National Election on 26 January 2023, resulting in the election being conducted in a uniform manner for the first time.

In May 2022, the AEC hosted an in-person PIANZEA Senior Officials Meeting in Fiji for the first time since 2019. The initiative enabled representatives to meet from across the network for a valuable chance to reconnect face-to-face. During this meeting the PIANZEA Network marked its 25th birthday, with members reflecting on what the network has meant to them over the last 25 years. Members reported that through PIANZEA they had built a strong network of electoral administrators who are promoting democracy in the region. They shared that the network not only built technical and operational skills but has also forged strong friendships and links across the region.

Through PIANZEA the AEC has also worked to ensure roll management needs are met in Palau, Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tokelau through the provision and support of the AEC's Generic Voter Registration System (GVRS). The AEC has begun developing an upgrade to GVRS to ensure it remains suitable for modern roll management needs.

The AEC's contribution to global best practice

In addition to our electoral assistance programs with our partners in the Pacific, the AEC also engaged with the international community to share our experiences as leading electoral administrators.

We have hosted several high-level international delegations of people interested in learning about our approach to delivering elections. In October 2022, Mr Art O'Leary, Secretary General of the Electoral Commission of Ireland visited Australia under a DFAT Special Visit Program (SVP). The AEC co-led the SVP with DFAT

and facilitated a number of engagements for Mr O’Leary with AEC executives and staff as well as counterpart Electoral Commissions from the states and territories. Australia’s whole-of-government approach to electoral integrity, civic engagement, and support for democratic resilience in the Indo-Pacific were key themes during Mr O’Leary’s visit. Mr O’Leary remarked that the AEC was the gold standard of electoral administration and showed particular interest in our innovative approach to combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media during the 2022 Australian federal election.

The AEC has also had the opportunity to present at international conferences. A highlight was a series of three conferences held by the Electoral Commission of India in their role as the lead on the Election Integrity Cohort underneath the United States Government’s Summit for Democracy – Year of Action initiative.

The Defending Democracy Unit (DDU) also worked to expand the AEC’s international engagement with other democracies and international organisations. The DDU shared the AEC’s experiences with countering disinformation about electoral processes and highlighted the AEC’s world-leading initiatives to protect the AEC’s reputation, the reputation of electoral events and maintain electoral integrity. The AEC’s Reputation Management Strategy, Disinformation Register and *Stop and consider* campaign have been of considerable national and international interest and envy. This engagement has enhanced the AEC’s global reputation as a leading electoral management body, at the forefront of responding to new and emerging threats to electoral integrity, particularly in the digital information age.

Through these varied international engagements, the AEC has continued to build its reputation as a highly innovative and dedicated EMB with an important contribution to global best practice.

International training and development

Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) is a modular professional development initiative focusing on electoral processes. The AEC plays a central role as one of five BRIDGE partners, as well as taking on the responsibility as the BRIDGE Secretariat. In September 2022, BRIDGE celebrated 20 years with an outdoor photo exhibition at the United Nations Headquarters in New York coinciding with the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Over the past 20 years, more than 50 countries have hosted more than 2,295 BRIDGE workshops (including 175 ‘Train the Facilitator’ courses), attended by more than 17,500 participants from 120 countries. The initiative now features more than 1,600 BRIDGE facilitators globally.

In 2022–23, the AEC supported the professional development of electoral professionals in the Pacific by running a BRIDGE ‘Train the Facilitator’ course. The course provided 14 participants from Pacific EMBs with training in facilitating BRIDGE workshops. Delegates also expanded essential skills in a range of technical areas of election delivery, contributing to increasing the capacity of their EMBs.

Four Countries

The AEC continues to engage with counterparts from the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand to discuss shared challenges and promote best practice in electoral administration. This financial year the exchanges have focused on current challenges to electoral administration, cyber security, and the rise of disinformation in electoral matters.

The AEC also engages with a range of international electoral management counterparts, academia and think tanks to stay abreast of current and emerging trends impacting elections.

Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand

The Electoral Commissioner attended four meetings of the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ) in 2022–23. These meetings provided a platform to share information on best practice in electoral operations and electoral integrity. They were also a forum to develop shared approaches to workforce and skills, create protocols

for engaging online media platforms and progress Australia's response to foreign interference in elections. In 2022–23, ECANZ was able to successfully replicate the AEC's **2022 federal election Statement of Intent with online platforms** across all jurisdictions to progress Australia's approach to electoral misinformation and disinformation.

The Deputy Electoral Commissioner (DEC) engaged with a sub-group reporting to ECANZ. His contribution included developing secondment opportunities between electoral commissions and supporting ECANZ by providing an analysis of key electoral activities. The DEC sub-group is a valuable networking and information sharing forum for the AEC.

The AEC also chaired ECANZ working groups, including the National Enrolment Forum and the Indigenous Electoral Participation Working Group. The AEC was represented on numerous ECANZ communities of practice, including National Election Operations, Financial and Resource Management of Elections and Funding and Disclosure.



SECTION 05

Management and accountability

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

Information on the AEC's management and accountability, including governance, scrutiny and managing staff and assets

Management and accountability

Corporate governance – principles and objectives

The AEC has the following structures in place to implement the principles and objectives of corporate governance:

- an executive leadership team which monitors performance, ensures accountability and steers the agency
- decision-making management committees – see **Table 16, appendix B** for a list including functions and membership
- an advisory Audit Committee, established by the Electoral Commissioner pursuant to the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

Ethical standards

The AEC's ethical standards are implicit in:

- our values of electoral integrity through professionalism, agility and quality
- the Australian Public Service values of being impartial, committed to service, accountable, respectful and ethical
- our Enterprise Agreement 2016–2019, which reflects the values and ethical standards of the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct
- the AEC's strategic planning framework and staff conduct policies.

Internal audit

Internal audit is an important component of our governance arrangements. Internal audit provides the Electoral Commissioner, Audit Committee and management with independent assurance and advice to strengthen accountability and improve risk-based decision-making across operations. During the year, the Chief Audit Executive engaged a strategic assurance partner to support delivery of internal audit work. The AEC has engaged in a range of activities to support independent assurance. The development of an assurance map and a refreshed assurance model for the agency further strengthen the assurance landscape.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee provides independent advice to the Electoral Commissioner. Its functions include reviewing the appropriateness of the AEC's:

- financial reporting
- performance reporting
- system of risk oversight and management
- system of internal control.

The Audit Committee Charter is available on the AEC website at **Audit Committee Charter – Australian Electoral Commission (aec.gov.au)**.

Audit Committee membership is in **appendix B**.

External audit

The AEC has not participated in any Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) performance audits during the year. All other tabled ANAO reports are considered for relevance from a lessons learned perspective.

Risk management

The AEC is committed to integrating risk management principles and practices into its business processes and fostering a positive risk culture. Risk is managed in accordance with the Commonwealth Risk Management Policy and the Accountable Authority Instructions for Risk Management.

The AEC's Risk Management Policy defines how the AEC identifies, manages and communicates risks affecting the achievement of agency objectives. The policy provides clear systems of delegated ownership, oversight, escalation and reporting.

Key responsibilities and accountabilities are determined by the Electoral Commissioner, as the Accountable Authority. The overall policy setting, including risk appetite and accountability arrangements, is defined and reviewed by the AEC's senior management.

Governance committees provide oversight and manage key risks to ensure changes in the operating environment are identified and systems of controls remain effective. The following governance and advisory committees lead and drive effective risk management across the agency:

- Audit Committee
- Executive Leadership Team
- Organisational Health, Performance and Risk Committee
- National Operations and Readiness Committee/National Election Delivery Committee

- Referendum Steering Committee
- Electoral Integrity Committee
- Investment, Change and People Strategy Committee
- People Committee
- Indigo Steering Committee
- National Work Health and Safety Committee.

More information on committees is at **Table 16, appendix B**.

Considerable work was undertaken in 2022–23 to further mature the AEC's risk capability and its risk culture, including:

- using embedded enterprise risk management software to consolidate risk data and to support dynamic risk reporting and management
- implementing procedures to integrate risk considerations across the governance structures and business planning
- providing learning and development activities to continually improve risk management knowledge and skills across the agency
- bolstering collaboration in managing shared risks, both across the agency and with AEC's external partners
- connecting findings from internal audit activities with the AEC's operational and strategic risks
- enhancing business continuity plans to ensure timely responses to disruptions and to build organisational resilience.

The AEC assesses risk maturity by participating in Comcover's biennial risk management benchmarking survey, which was conducted in March 2023.

Fraud control

The AEC Fraud Control Plan highlights the agency's commitment to curtail or eliminate fraud in its operations and services. As required by section 10 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*, the AEC has:

- prepared fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans
- appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, recording and reporting mechanisms that meet the AEC's specific needs
- taken all reasonable measures to deal with fraud appropriately.

The Fraud Control Plan outlines strategies to prevent, detect and respond to fraud, including prevention strategies for both corporate and electoral fraud. The Electoral Integrity Committee (see **Table 16, appendix B**) is responsible for providing governance and assurance over the AEC's Fraud Control Plan. The AEC examined all allegations of suspected fraud during the year, including any allegations relating to the 2023 Aston by-election.

Information on reporting suspected fraud is available:

- to staff through the intranet and mandatory fraud awareness training
- for the public at www.aec.gov.au.

Internal planning processes

The AEC's planning processes support corporate governance and are undertaken in line with the requirements of the PGPA Act. The corporate plan, available on the AEC website, informs operational planning and performance, and is reflected in the AEC's business planning documents. Internal reporting and mid-term performance assessments help track progress against performance measures. Information on how the corporate plan contributes to specified outcomes is in our performance statement.

Corporate planning documents, including internal monitoring and reporting mechanisms, are listed in **Table 15 of appendix B**.

Voter integrity

The AEC is committed to upholding electoral integrity and the defence of our democratic system through a robust approach to addressing apparent multiple voting and non-voting.

Multiple voting

Following each electoral event, the AEC conducts a thorough process to identify possible multiple voters. Multiple voting is a criminal offence under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) and cases of apparent multiple voting are referred to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) for further investigation.

For the 2022 federal election the AEC wrote to 2,395 electors whose names appeared to have been marked off the electoral roll more than once. The letters asked voters to provide further information about when and where electors voted, in order to determine whether there was an apparent case of multiple voting. As a result of multiple voting, investigations following the 2022 federal election, the AEC:

- referred 13 cases of apparent multiple voting to the AFP for further investigation and
- declared 37 electors to be designated electors based on the reasonable suspicion of having multiple voted (designated electors are required to vote by declaration vote at federal electoral events).

For the 2023 Aston by-election, multiple investigations have commenced and are ongoing.

Non-voting

As a proactive measure ahead of the 2022 federal election, the AEC wrote to electors with a history of alleged non-voting to remind them of their voting obligations. Following the close of rolls, letters were sent to 117,645 electors whose records showed they failed to vote at the previous two elections (2016 and 2019).

Following electoral events, the AEC issues 'apparent failure to vote' notices to electors whose names have not been marked off the electoral roll. In August 2022, the AEC sent 1,268,907 notices to apparent non-voters. A voter who receives this notice should provide a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote, or information on where and when they voted, or pay the \$20 penalty. Failure to do so may result in the person being prosecuted for a criminal offence. In June 2023, the AEC commenced proceedings against apparent non-voters from the 2022 federal election. Non-voter prosecutions are ongoing at the time of reporting.

For the 2023 Aston by-election, the apparent non-voter investigations have commenced and are ongoing.

External scrutiny

Significant developments and judicial decisions

The AEC was involved in four matters in the Federal Court during 2022–23.

1. On 21 December 2021, the AEC commenced civil proceedings in the Federal Court seeking orders that Mr Andrew Laming MP breached the authorisations requirements of the Electoral Act leading up to the 2019 federal election. The matter has been heard and the judgment is pending at the time of reporting.
2. On 20 May 2022, the AEC commenced civil proceedings in the Federal Court against Mr Craig Kelly seeking an urgent interim injunction to add legible authorisations to his corflutes displayed at pre-poll voting centres and likely on polling day. The AEC was unsuccessful at the injunction stage and the Court made an order that the AEC pay the respondent's costs. On 11 August 2022, the AEC filed Court documents seeking civil penalties in relation to the signage. The matter was listed for hearing on 10 July 2023.
3. On 15 February 2023, the AEC commenced civil proceedings in the Federal Court seeking orders that Mr Charles McQuestin breached the authorisations requirements of the Electoral Act in the lead-up to and on polling day during the 2022 federal election. The matter is ongoing.
4. On 10 March 2023, the AEC commenced civil proceedings in the Federal Court seeking orders that the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining Energy Union breached the authorisations requirements of the Electoral Act leading up to the 2022 federal election. The matter is ongoing.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal decisions

No decisions of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) had a significant effect on the operations of the AEC during the reporting period.

In December 2022, the AEC declared 37 electors suspected of multi-voting at the 2022 federal election as 'designated electors'. The AEC received notice of 16 applications in the AAT, all of which have been resolved. There are no ongoing AAT matters at the time of reporting.

Australian Information Commissioner decisions

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner commenced one review of an AEC Freedom of Information decision. The review was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

Australian Privacy Commissioner decisions

No complaints about internal AEC administration were referred from the Australian Privacy Commissioner during this reporting period.

Australian Human Rights Commission decisions

The Australian Human Rights Commission received six complaints during the reporting period. Three complaints were pending at the time of reporting. Three matters were finalised following the AEC's response.

Auditor-General reports

No reports of the Auditor-General referred to the operations of the AEC during 2022–23.

Electoral communications complaints

During the 2023 Aston by-election (from the issue of the writ on 27 February 2023 to the return of the writ on 19 April 2023), the AEC investigated 10 complaints and queries related to electoral communications. Most of these complaints related to authorisations of electoral communications. The purpose of authorisation requirements is to support free and informed voting at elections.

Where breaches of the Electoral Act were identified, the AEC issued nine warnings. The AEC took no further action on those matters. A breakdown of the electoral communication investigated by the AEC during the Aston by-election is at **appendix I**.

The 2023 Fadden by-election is upcoming at the time of reporting.

Parliamentary committee engagement

The AEC assisted five federal parliamentary committees with inquiries during 2022–23. These included inquiries by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) into the conduct of the 2022 federal election and Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. We made submissions, gave evidence at public hearings and responded to questions on notice about a range of matters. The insight and experience shared by the AEC provided the JSCEM with opportunities to consider legislative reform to support the delivery of future electoral events and community expectations of electoral services.

In 2022–23, the AEC:

- made 17 public submissions to parliamentary inquiries and attended seven public hearings
- attended three Senate Estimates hearings and responded to 17 Senate Estimates questions on notice.

Commonwealth Ombudsman investigations

The Commonwealth Ombudsman received five complaints during the reporting period. Three of these were finalised and two are ongoing.

For the three finalised complaints, the Ombudsman was satisfied with the outcome of the investigation.

Freedom of information

Under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* the AEC's Freedom of Information Disclosure Log and Information Publication Scheme can be accessed at **www.aec.gov.au/information-access**.

Customer scrutiny

The AEC's service charter – available at www.aec.gov.au – outlines the agency's role and purpose, and the services the public can expect to receive.

Public engagement policies, procedures and tools are also available for staff. The AEC routinely examines enquiry trends to improve public information and services.

Our people

The AEC relies on highly skilled and professional people to achieve its key activities. We are committed to developing all employees to build capability in our specialised workforce. Our unique workforce is multi-tiered and structured to enhance and deliver seamless services to the Australian community.

Our people continue to adapt to the significant challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The AEC invests in early

intervention health initiatives to ensure our employees are safe.

We value the critical contributions our people make to delivering our core business and nurturing our positive workplace culture. We aim to attract and retain the right people, at the right time, with the right skills.

At 30 June 2023, the AEC had a regular workforce of 897 Australian Public Service (APS) employees. This included:

- 796 ongoing APS employees
- 101 non-ongoing APS employees
- 21 APS employees who identify as Indigenous Australians (17 ongoing and four non-ongoing).

A breakdown of the AEC workforce is in Table 4 (below).

The AEC also has:

- a casual APS workforce of 1,547
- nine Statutory Office holders.

Table 4: AEC APS workforce by employment type and classification (excluding statutory office holders) at 30 June 2023

	Ongoing	Non-Ongoing
SES2	4	–
SES1	7	–
EL2	57	1
EL1	168	2
APS6	229	13
APS5	139	20
APS4	101	17
APS3	44	42
APS2	43	6
APS1	4	–
Total	796	101

Detailed workforce statistics, including statutory appointments are in appendix H.

Recruitment

The AEC's ability to deliver large-scale electoral events relies on its capacity to attract, develop and retain a significant number of people to support its national operations. This ensures the AEC maintains a highly skilled, diverse and capable workforce. In meeting the AEC's requirements for 2022–23, recruitment activities resulted in:

- 225 ongoing engagements (including 12 graduates and four career starters)
- 347 non-ongoing engagements
- 1,076 casual engagements
- 215 labour hire engagements
- 142 promotions (both internal and external).

The AEC is preparing to attract and select up to 100,000 temporary staff in the event of a referendum in 2023–24.

Terms and conditions of employment

The AEC's regular workforce is engaged under the *Public Service Act 1999* (Public Service Act) and the temporary election workforce under section 35(1) of the Electoral Act.

The employment of people engaged under the Public Service Act is governed by the AEC's Enterprise Agreement 2016–2019, published on the www.aec.gov.au.

Under the enterprise agreement, employees receive a range of non-salary benefits, including paid personal (carers) leave. This supports them with caring responsibilities as outlined in the *Carer Recognition Act 2010*.

Remuneration adjustments can occur through a section 24(1) Determination made under the Public Service Act. The current Determination was signed by the Electoral Commissioner on 18 October 2021.

The Electoral Commissioner may agree to individual flexibility arrangements with employees, which can vary the effect of the terms of the enterprise agreement. At 30 June 2023, individual flexibility arrangements were in place for 77 AEC employees (see **Table 37, appendix H**).

The AEC engages a temporary election workforce for election events and the terms and conditions of their employment are outlined in a Collective Determination.

Performance management and performance pay

The enterprise agreement requires all employees engaged under section 22(2) of the Public Service Act to participate in the AEC's Performance Management Program. Eligible employees who meet the requirements receive salary advancement. The AEC does not provide performance bonuses. A list of salary ranges by classification is in **Table 38, appendix H**.

Remuneration

The AEC is required to disclose the remuneration, policy, practices and governance arrangements of executive officials, including:

- key management personnel
- senior executives
- other highly paid employees, whose total remuneration exceeds the threshold amount of \$235,000 for the reporting period.

The terms and conditions of the AEC's statutory office holders are determined by the Remuneration Tribunal and the Governor-General under the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*. This includes remuneration of the Chairperson of the Commission, Electoral Commissioner, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, and Australian Electoral Officers.

Remuneration for the AEC’s senior executive employees is established through individual determinations made under section 24(1) of the Public Service Act with regard to:

- the APS Executive Remuneration Management Policy
- the Public Sector Workplace Relations Policy 2020
- an assessment of the relativities with other APS agencies as indicated in the annual APS Remuneration Report produced by the Australian Public Service Commission and released in June each year.

Salary levels for Senior Executive Service (SES) employees are generally set at rates within a salary band applicable to each SES classification. A list of salary ranges by classification is in **Table 38, appendix H**.

Details of executive remuneration are published on both the AEC and Remuneration Tribunal websites, and at **Tables 40, 41 and 42, appendix H**.

Workforce planning

In 2022–23, the AEC undertook several strategic and operational workforce planning initiatives to support informed workforce decisions.

Currently the AEC is developing a Workforce Strategy and People Capability Framework to further support our workforce to deliver organisational outcomes now and in the future.

The AEC uses business intelligence and data to support decision-making and service delivery. This has informed the development of staffing delivery plans to prepare for the referendum in 2023–24.

The AEC chairs the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ) Temporary Election Staff Working Group.

Through this partnership, we explore opportunities for greater cooperation and harmonisation for temporary election staff employed across federal, state and local elections in Australia.

Work health and safety

The AEC takes a proactive approach to workplace health, safety and rehabilitation. We adhere to compliance obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and the Guidelines for Rehabilitation Authorities 2019. The AEC has the following systems to monitor, evaluate and maintain health, safety and welfare:

- a Rehabilitation Management System, meeting Comcare’s Guidelines for Rehabilitation Authorities 2019 under section 41 of the SRC Act
- a work health and safety management system – AECsafety – which was further refined during the year
- the AEC risk management framework.

Through well-established initiatives, the AEC monitors, evaluates and maintains health, safety and wellbeing across the agency. These include engaging workplace rehabilitation providers to help injured or ill employees return to work safely and participation in the NewAccess program facilitated by Comcare. We also promote:

- the AEC’s early intervention program, which supports employees injured at work, and helps reduce injury-related absenteeism
- free annual influenza vaccinations for staff
- the AEC’s employee assistance program
- annual participation in September, encouraging participants of all fitness and ability levels to take 10,000 steps a day

- ergonomic workstation assessments to prevent injury and to ensure pre-existing injuries are not aggravated.

COVID-19 workplace safety

The AEC continues to monitor Commonwealth and state/territory COVID-19 advice to ensure we provide a safe workplace and electoral events and can respond to any changing environment.

Health and safety incident and claim management

In 2022–23, 708 health and safety incidents were reported, compared with 1,711 in the previous year. This decrease is a direct result of having no national electoral event in the reported period. However, 199 of the 708 were incidents relating to the writ-to-writ period for the 2022 federal election (14 April to 23 June 2022).

Among the 708 incidents:

- 328 were COVID-19 reports for the year.
- 334 were hazards/incidents.

A total of four incidents were reported to Comcare by the AEC as notifiable incidents.

Two related to: *the fall or release from a height of any plant, substance or thing.*²

Two were lift malfunctions: *the collapse, overturning, failure or malfunction of, or damage to, any plant that is required to be authorised for use in accordance with the regulations.*³

No further action was required on these matters.

Injury and illness cases decreased in 2022–23 with 25 current cases, compared with 78 the year prior. At 30 June 2023, there were:

- 21 continuing cases with accepted compensation
- seven new cases for compensation, of which
 - four claims were accepted by Comcare
 - three claims were rejected by Comcare.

Of the claims for compensation for 2022–23 the breakdown of injury was as follows:

- three psychological
- one soft tissue
- three fractures.

Of the 28 current non compensation claims:

- 12 were for physical injuries
- 11 were for psychological injuries
- two were for a combination of psychological/physical injuries
- three were COVID-19 related.

Table 5: Current cases for compensable and non-compensable injuries at 30 June 2023

Case management type	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Compensation	14	32	21	28	25
Non-compensation	58	48	81	50	28
Early intervention	14	3	17	24	7
Total	86	83	102	78	60

² Comcare guide to work health and safety incident notification, p.6, [Work Health and Safety Incident Notification guide \(comcare.gov.au\)](https://www.comcare.gov.au)

³ *Ibid*

Developing our people

The National Training and Education Unit leads and coordinates learning and development for the AEC workforce to build:

- critical operational and leadership capabilities that underpin election readiness and delivery
- essential workplace and public sector specific knowledge and skills
- a focus on electoral integrity, compliance and quality
- a vibrant learning culture.

Learning and development is guided by the AEC Learning and Professional Development Strategy 2020–2025, through five priorities:

- developing a vibrant learning culture
- clarifying accountabilities and responsibilities
- ensuring a capable temporary election workforce
- establishing a learning infrastructure
- building capability.

In 2022–23, the AEC focused on developing and delivering learning and development programs to prepare our permanent and temporary workforce for the upcoming referendum. These programs included the delivery of the Operational Leaders Program from March to June 2023, the AEC's flagship operational training program. This program is complemented by a suite of opportunities available to the workforce including the national induction program and the annual mandatory learning program.

The AEC also encourages staff to apply for study assistance and offers support for professional memberships.

Inventory management

Inventory management is essential to manage the product life cycles of AEC election materials. In the lead-up to electoral events, the AEC plans for sourcing, replenishing or replacing a wide range of materials.

To support election readiness, the AEC uses a combination of internal warehousing and procured services of a third-party logistics provider. At all sites, progressive stocktakes are undertaken throughout an election cycle and managed in accordance with the AEC's asset management policy or requirements.

The sourcing of longer-term combined office and warehousing facilities has presented a unique opportunity to review current storage strategies. A foreseeable move away from the use of external third-party logistics providers is currently being investigated. This move greatly increases operational readiness, while reducing reliance on third parties to deliver critical supply chain services.

The AEC is currently working on enhanced supply chain management as part of its modernisation program. This process involves business requirement analysis, data gathering and extensive user acceptance testing.

Physical assets

The AEC's operating assets such as office fit-outs, machinery and equipment are managed on an end-of-life or end-of-lease schedule. Office fit-outs are the largest component of this asset base. Asset management is not a core aspect of the AEC's strategic business, so service and maintenance agreements are used. The AEC uses the services of outsourced providers, who assist with ensuring value for money outcomes.

Environmental performance and sustainable development

In accordance with section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the AEC is required to report on environmental performance and measures that minimise environmental impact.

The Energy Efficiency in Government Operations (EEGO) policy includes energy intensity targets and minimum energy performance standards. Departments and agencies are to progressively improve their energy performance and consider energy use when purchasing or leasing buildings.

The AEC participates in the Australian Public Service Demand Reduction Initiative – an effort across government agencies to reduce energy consumption. The initiative calls for agencies in the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales to lead by example. This includes reducing electricity demand when requested during an energy emergency such as a supply shortfall during a heatwave.

Annual energy consumption

Reporting on greenhouse gas emissions and energy has been developed with methodology consistent with the Whole-of-Australian Government approach, part of the APS Net Zero 2030 policy. Emissions statistics can be found in **appendix J**.

Fleet vehicles

The AEC has 13 vehicles in its fleet. Usage and kilometres travelled are monitored and replacement vehicles meet minimal operational requirements, such as four-wheel drives for remote locations and smaller passenger vehicles for city locations.

Waste management

The AEC provides ready access to segregated waste streams in the office environment. Recycling bins are located throughout all Canberra office buildings in kitchens and common areas. We provide bins for general waste, organic waste and commingled recycling.

During each electoral event, we assess the amount of paper and cardboard waste generated to help develop strategies to improve the agency's waste footprint. The AEC continues to review its cardboard products and has made several enhancements to reduce both quantities and sizing of the products supplied. This work has resulted in less waste and reduced environmental impacts associated with carbon emissions as fewer products are required to be shipped through existing supply chains.

The AEC continues to proactively look at the life-cycle management of all products and is investigating options to reduce waste, such as the donations of materials that are unable to be retained for future use.

Reduce, re-use, recycle between electoral events

Generally, the AEC's out-posted centres are decommissioned following a federal election. All materials are donated, returned to central warehouses, recycled or – where none of the preferred solutions is possible – disposed of. The announcement of a referendum to be held potentially in the 2022–23 financial year challenged existing decommissioning and resupply strategies. Long manufacturing lead times required material to be retained for potential repackaging and supply to polling places. Several models were developed to meet readiness requirements while balancing costs associated with unknown referendum dates.

Purchasing

The AEC procures goods and services consistent with the:

- PGPA Act
- Commonwealth Procurement Rules
- Department of the Environment and Energy's Sustainable Procurement Guide.

The AEC applies these rules through its accountable authority instructions, supporting operational guidelines, and by developing procurement skills and processes to improve efficiency and value-for-money outcomes.

The AEC has centralised expertise to manage its procurement and contracting framework. Tenders are evaluated for:

- value for money
- extent to which intended outcomes or results are achieved
- unnecessary consumption
- ethical behaviour.

Australian National Audit Office access clauses

All AEC contract templates include a standard clause to provide Auditor-General access to a contractor's premises. The AEC did not execute any contracts in 2022–23 without the Australian National Audit Office access provisions.

Small business

The AEC supports small business participation in Commonwealth Government procurement. Small and medium enterprises and small enterprise participation statistics are on the Department of Finance website at www.finance.gov.au

The AEC recognises the importance of ensuring small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on Treasury's website at www.treasury.gov.au

Publication of contracts on AusTender

Information on the value of AEC contracts and consultancies – as well as expected procurements – is available on the AusTender website at www.tenders.gov.au

In 2022–23:

- one contract or standing offer greater than \$10,000 (including GST) was exempt from publication on AusTender on the basis of paragraph 2.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Rules with a total value of \$46,816
- the AEC did not administer any discretionary grant programs
- 10 open-tender requests were published.

Consultants

Consultants are engaged to provide specialist expertise, independent research, or to review or assess particular elements of electoral events. These decisions are made in accordance with section 35(2) of the Electoral Act, the PGPA Act and related Regulations (including the Commonwealth Procurement Rules), and relevant internal policies.

Expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts

Table 6: Reportable consultancy contracts 2022–23

Reportable consultancy contracts 2022–23	Number	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	19	2,060
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	9	809
Total	28	2,869

Table 7: List of organisations receiving a share of consultancy contracts 2022–23

Organisations receiving a share of reportable consultancy contract expenditure 2022–23	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
Thinkplace Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 56 625 156 845)	144
Axiom (ABN 97 604 318 569)	175
Noetic Solutions Pty Limited (ABN 87 098 132 024)	217
Orima Research Pty Ltd (ABN 77 076 347 914)	244
Gartner Australasia Pty Limited (ABN 69 003 708 601)	295
Protiviti (ABN 27 108 473 909)	315
Total	2,118

During 2022–23, 19 new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$2.060 million. In addition, nine ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during this period, involving total actual expenditure of \$0.809 million.

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.

Expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts

Table 8: Reportable non-consultancy contracts 2022–23

Reportable non-consultancy contracts 2022–23	Number	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	297	46,785
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	720	180,586
Total	1,017	227,371

Table 9: List of organisations receiving a share of reportable non-consultancy contract expenditure 2022–23

Organisations receiving a share of reportable non-consultancy contract expenditure 2022–23	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
Dell Australia Pty Limited (ABN 46 003 855 561)	6,037
EPICON IT Solutions Pty Ltd (ABN 72 130 995 783)	7,489
Australia Post (ABN 28 864 970 579)	7,734
Team Global Express Pty Ltd (ABN 15 084 157 666)	14,847
Accenture Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 49 096 776 895)	22,238
Total	58,346

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.



SECTION 06

Financial statements

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

Financial performance for 2022–23
including audited financial statements

Financial statements

The AEC's 2022–23 financial results were influenced by the timing of expenditure for the delivery of the 2022 federal election and preparation for the referendum.

The Australian National Audit Office has issued an unmodified audit opinion for the AEC's 2022–23 financial statements.

The AEC's financial reporting consists of a financial performance summary, together with the financial statements and supporting notes. The financial performance summary is a snapshot of the AEC's deficit, cash flow and net asset information.

The financial statements include the:

- auditor's report
- Electoral Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer statement
- various financial statements and administered schedules.

Further information on the financial performance of the AEC is provided in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial performance summary

The AEC's range of electoral activities is subject to external factors which can impact the timing of our expenditure. Consequently, our operating result can fluctuate significantly from year to year. Restricted by the ongoing challenge of the AEC's funding model, the AEC's 2022–23 financial results show an

operating loss of \$87.5 million compared with an operating loss of \$24.5 million in 2021–22.

The 2022–23 result was primarily influenced by costs related to the 2022 federal election, preparation for the referendum and the timing of expenditure against the appropriations.

The statement of financial position at 30 June 2023 held net assets of \$119.0 million, largely comprising appropriation receivables, leasehold improvements and computer software. Total assets decreased by \$117.9 million, primarily due to a decrease in appropriation receivables associated with funding for the federal election appropriated in 2021–22. Total liabilities decreased by \$80.3 million, mainly due to the timing of payment of supplier invoices.

No significant issues of non-compliance in relation to finance law were reported to the Minister for Finance in 2022–23. This included any failure to comply with the duties of accountable authorities (section 15–19 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*) (PGPA Act), significant fraudulent activity and other serious breaches (section 25–29 of the PGPA Act).

The AEC's funding model continues to present an ongoing challenge. It poses significant risk in managing the increasing complexity of federal elections and by-elections, as well as the ongoing growth in the size of the electoral roll. Additional departmental appropriations were received in 2022–23 for increased costs associated with preparatory work for the delivery of a First Nations Voice to Parliament referendum.

Enterprise Portfolio Management Office (EPMO)

A new approach to the AEC's Investment Prioritisation was developed and implemented by the EPMO, in collaboration with the Finance and Corporate Performance Branch. The six-monthly cycle of bid submissions and assessments align with internal budget processes and enables decision-makers to collectively consider and prioritise project proposals against budgetary constraints. The initial round of Investment Prioritisation was successfully delivered in May 2023, with the second round planned for October 2023 (pending referendum activity).

Independent Auditor's report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Special Minister of State

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Electoral Commission (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2023:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2023 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Electoral Commissioner and the Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of comprehensive income;
- Statement of financial position;
- Statement of changes in equity;
- Cash flow statement;
- Administered schedule of comprehensive income;
- Administered schedule of assets and liabilities;
- Administered reconciliation schedule;
- Administered cash flow statement;
- Overview; and
- Notes to the financial statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Entity, the Electoral Commissioner is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the rules made under the Act. The Electoral Commissioner is also responsible for such internal control as the Electoral Commissioner determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Electoral Commissioner is responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Electoral Commissioner is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Xiaoyan Lu
Executive Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
25 August 2023

Financial statements

CONTENTS

Certification

Primary financial statements

- Statement of comprehensive income
- Statement of financial position
- Statement of changes in equity
- Cash flow statement
- Budget variance reporting
- Administered schedule of comprehensive income
- Administered schedule of assets and liabilities
- Administered reconciliation schedule
- Administered cash flow statement
- Administered budget variance reporting

Overview

Notes to the financial statements

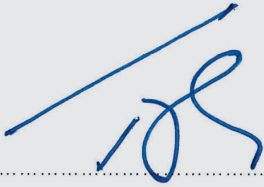
- Financial performance**
 - 1.1 Expenses
 - 1.2 Revenue
- Departmental financial position**
 - 2.1 Financial assets
 - 2.2 Non-financial assets
 - 2.3 Other payables and provisions
 - 2.4 Interest bearing liabilities
- Funding**
 - 3.1 Appropriations
 - 3.2 Special accounts
 - 3.3 Net cash appropriation arrangements
- People and relationships**
 - 4.1 Key management personnel remuneration
 - 4.2 Related party disclosures
- Managing uncertainties**
 - 5.1 Contingent assets and liabilities
 - 5.2 Financial instruments
- Other information**
 - 6.1 Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

STATEMENT BY ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

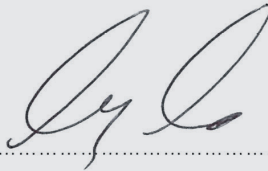
In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41 (2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Australian Electoral Commission will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



Signed.....

Tom Rogers
Electoral Commissioner
24 August 2023



Signed.....

Sally So
Chief Financial Officer
24 August 2023

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	Original Budget ¹ \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	124,174	224,587	96,804
Suppliers	1.1B	166,169	323,028	135,990
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2	28,670	19,121	25,523
Impairment loss on trade and other receivables		-	159	200
Finance costs	1.1C	617	433	780
Write-down and impairment of other assets	2.2	13,602	66	-
Total expenses		333,232	567,394	259,297
Own-source income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	18,425	18,069	11,037
Other revenue	1.2B	183	99	-
Total own-source revenue		18,608	18,168	11,037
Gains				
Other gains		130	1,023	200
Total gains		130	1,023	200
Total own-source income		18,738	19,191	11,237
Net (cost of) services		(314,494)	(548,203)	(248,060)
Revenue from Government				
Revenue from Government	1.2C	235,425	523,664	235,425
(Deficit) / Surplus on continuing operations		(79,069)	(24,539)	(12,635)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		(8,468)	-	-
Total comprehensive (loss) / income	3.3	(87,537)	(24,539)	(12,635)

1. Budget reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 published in October 2022.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	Original Budget ¹ \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents		1,368	1,868	1,348
Trade and other receivables	2.1	62,979	199,526	144,850
Total financial assets		64,347	201,394	146,198
Non-financial assets				
Leasehold improvements ²	2.2	67,071	73,608	71,984
Plant and equipment ²	2.2	12,919	16,460	24,303
Computer software	2.2	70,360	46,433	72,841
Inventories		2,520	3,230	1,432
Prepayments		11,029	4,980	1,347
Total non-financial assets		163,899	144,711	171,907
Total assets		228,246	346,105	318,105
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers		14,308	92,357	10,087
Other payables	2.3A	6,581	11,522	3,102
Total payables		20,889	103,879	13,189
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	2.4	44,810	57,653	73,841
Total interest bearing liabilities		44,810	57,653	73,841
Provisions				
Employee provisions		23,320	22,846	21,527
Provision for restoration	2.3B	20,274	5,196	3,770
Total provisions		43,594	28,042	25,297
Total liabilities		109,293	189,574	112,327
Net assets		118,953	156,531	205,778
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		187,118	137,159	187,116
(Accumulated deficit) / Retained surplus		(88,632)	(9,563)	(10,274)
Asset revaluation reserve		20,467	28,935	28,936
Total equity		118,953	156,531	205,778

1. Budget reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 published in October 2022.

2. Right-of-use (ROU) assets are included in leasehold improvements and plant and equipment.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	Original Budget ¹ \$'000
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	137,159	100,023	137,157
Transactions with owners			
Contribution by owners			
Departmental capital budget	49,959	37,136	49,959
Total transactions with owners	49,959	37,136	49,959
Closing balance as at 30 June	187,118	137,159	187,116
RETAINED EARNINGS			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(9,563)	14,976	2,361
Comprehensive income			
(Deficit) / Surplus for the period	(79,069)	(24,539)	(12,635)
Closing balance as at 30 June	(88,632)	(9,563)	(10,274)
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	28,935	28,935	28,936
Comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income	(8,468)	-	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	20,467	28,935	28,936
Total equity as at 30 June	118,953	156,531	205,778

1. Budget reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 published in October 2022.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Accounting policy

Contributions by owners

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and departmental capital budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022	Original Budget ¹
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations	386,676	549,218	235,425
Rendering of services	20,348	23,076	11,037
Net GST received	41,379	21,801	-
Total cash received	448,403	594,095	246,462
Cash used			
Employees	127,454	221,185	96,804
Suppliers	287,054	273,201	135,790
Interest payments on lease liabilities	429	433	780
Section 74 receipts transferred to the OPA	51,904	48,618	-
Other	-	-	200
Total cash used	466,841	543,437	233,574
Net cash (used by) / from operating activities	(18,438)	50,658	12,888
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	44,396	49,596	49,959
Total cash used	44,396	49,596	49,959
Net cash (used by) investing activities	(44,396)	(49,596)	(49,959)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity - departmental capital budget	80,216	13,019	49,959
Total cash received	80,216	13,019	49,959
Cash used			
Principal payments of lease liabilities	17,882	13,561	12,888
Total cash used	17,882	13,561	12,888
Net cash (used by) / from financing activities	62,334	(542)	37,071
Net (decrease) / increase in cash held	(500)	520	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,868	1,348	1,348
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,368	1,868	1,348

1. Budget reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 published in October 2022.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

BUDGET VARIANCE REPORTING

for the period ended 30 June 2023

The below table provides explanations for significant variances between the AEC's original budget estimates, as published in the October Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 (PBS), and the actual financial performance and position for the year. The budget is not audited. Variances are treated as significant when it is considered important for a reader's understanding or is relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and for analysis of the AEC's performance. The nature and timing of the Commonwealth's budget process can also contribute to the variances.

Budget variance explanation	Affected statements and line items
<p>The timing of the federal election is a decision for Government. The AEC's budget assumes that all election related costs will be incurred and paid for within the financial year.</p> <p>The AEC received funding from Government in 2021-22 to deliver the 2022 federal election. The 2022 federal election was held on 21 May 2022, and the AEC continued to incur related expenses and make payments to suppliers during 2022-23.</p>	<p>Statement of comprehensive income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee benefits Suppliers <p>Statement of financial position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade and other receivables Suppliers <p>Cash flow statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriations (cash received) Employees (cash used) Suppliers (cash used) Section 74 receipts transferred to the OPA (cash used)
<p>Asset verification and revaluation processes were undertaken during 2022-23, resulting in a revaluation decrement and asset write-downs for plant and equipment. In addition, the annual software impairment assessment resulted in the impairment of \$12.1m for the Self-Service Platform project which partially delivered on its objectives.</p> <p>The remeasurement of the provision for restoration reflects a large increase in building costs per square metre.</p>	<p>Statement of comprehensive income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write-down and impairment of other assets Changes in asset revaluation reserve <p>Statement of financial position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant and equipment Provision for restoration Asset revaluation reserve
<p>During the year several leases ended and were not renewed or were replaced by short term leases. This, combined with the capital repayments for the year, has reduced the lease liability and leasehold improvement ROU asset balance.</p>	<p>Statement of financial position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leasehold improvements (ROU) Leases <p>Cash flow statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal payments of lease liabilities (cash used)
<p>There was an increase in cash payments for software projects following delays associated with the timing of the 2022 federal election.</p>	<p>Cash flow statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributed equity – departmental capital budget (cash received)

ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME*for the period ended 30 June 2023*

	2023	2022	Original Budget ¹
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
EXPENSES			
Election Funding	-	76,406	-
Nomination / non-voter fine refunds	<u>1,707</u>	<u>6</u>	-
Total expenses	<u>1,707</u>	<u>76,412</u>	-
INCOME			
Revenue			
Non-taxation revenue			
Political party nominations and registrations	42	3,282	-
Electoral fines / penalties	4,587	15	66
Other	<u>251</u>	<u>2</u>	-
Total non-taxation revenue	<u>4,880</u>	<u>3,299</u>	66
Total revenue	<u>4,880</u>	<u>3,299</u>	66
Net contribution by services	<u>3,173</u>	<u>(73,113)</u>	66
(Deficit) / surplus	<u>3,173</u>	<u>(73,113)</u>	66

1. Budget reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 published in October 2022.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES*as at 30 June 2023*

ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	-	2	-
Total financial assets	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	-
Total assets administered on behalf of Government	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	-
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	9	47,083	-
Total payables	<u>9</u>	<u>47,083</u>	-
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government	<u>9</u>	<u>47,083</u>	-
Net (liabilities)	<u>(9)</u>	<u>(47,081)</u>	-

1. Budget reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 published in October 2022.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

ADMINISTERED RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July	(47,081)	-
Net (cost of) / contribution by services		
Income	4,880	3,299
Expenses	(1,707)	(76,412)
Transfers (to) / from the Australian Government		
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account		
Special appropriations (limited)	1,624	6
Special appropriations (unlimited)	46,912	29,329
Appropriation transfers to Official Public Account		
Transfers to Official Public Account	(4,637)	(3,303)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June	(9)	(47,081)

Accounting policy

Administered cash transfers to and from the Official Public Account

Revenue collected by the AEC for use by the Government rather than the AEC is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance. Conversely, cash is drawn from the OPA to make payments under parliamentary appropriation on behalf of Government. These transfers to and from the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the entity on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the administered cash flow statement and in the administered reconciliation schedule.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

ADMINISTERED CASH FLOW STATEMENT*for the period ended 30 June 2023*

	2023	2022	Original Budget ¹
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Political party nominations and registrations	42	3,288	-
Electoral fines / penalties	4,587	15	66
Other	-	2	-
Total cash received	4,629	3,305	66
Cash used			
Election funding	46,823	29,329	-
Nomination / non-voter fine refunds	1,707	6	-
Total cash used	48,530	29,335	-
Net cash from / (used by) operating activities	(43,901)	(26,030)	66
Cash from Official Public Account			
Appropriations	48,536	29,335	-
Total cash from Official Public Account	48,536	29,335	-
Cash to Official Public Account			
Appropriations	4,637	3,303	66
Total cash to Official Public Account	4,637	3,303	66
Net cash (to) / from the Official Public Account	43,899	26,032	(66)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	(2)	2	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	-	2	-

1. Budget reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 published in October 2022.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

ADMINISTERED BUDGET VARIANCE REPORTING

for the period ended 30 June 2023

The below table provides explanations for significant variances between the AEC's original budget estimates, as published in the October Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 (PBS), and the actual financial performance and position for the year. The budget is not audited. Variances are treated as significant when it is considered important for a reader's understanding or is relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and for analysis of the AEC's performance. The nature and timing of the Commonwealth's budget process can also contribute to the variances.

Budget variance explanation	Affected statements and line items
<p>The timing of the federal election is a decision for Government. The AEC's budget assumes that all election related costs will be incurred and paid for within the financial year.</p>	<p>Schedule of comprehensive income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nomination / non-voter fine refunds• Electoral fines / penalties (revenue)• Other (revenue)
<p>The 2022 federal election was held in May 2022, and the AEC commenced issuing non-voter fines during 2022-23. Some of these fines were successfully disputed and were refunded. The AEC also made payments for election funding accrued at 30 June 2022.</p>	<p>Cash flow statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electoral fines / penalties (cash received)• Election funding (cash used)• Nomination / non-voter fine refunds (cash used)• Appropriations (from and to the Official Public Account)

Overview

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is an Australian Government controlled, not-for-profit entity, domiciled in Australia. The AEC's purpose is to maintain an impartial and independent electoral system for eligible voters through active electoral roll management, efficient delivery of polling services and targeted education and public awareness programs.

Additionally, the AEC undertakes the following administered activities on behalf of the Government:

- electoral activities including registrations of political parties, maintain extracts of the electoral roll and conduct fee for service elections;
- administer electoral fines / penalties; and
- pay election funding for political parties / candidates / senate groups to reimburse them for electoral expenditure from a special appropriation established under section 302 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

The continued existence of the AEC in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continued funding by Parliament for its administration and programs.

The basis of preparation

The financial statements are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- (a) Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR); and
- (b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – including simplified disclosures for Tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

New accounting standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

Two amending standards (AASB 2021-2 and AASB 2021-6) were adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard. These amending standards have been adopted for the 2022-23 reporting period and did not have a material effect on the AEC's financial statements:

- *AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates (AASB 2021-2)* and
- *AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards (AASB 2021-6)*.

AASB 2021-2 amends AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 108, AASB 134 and AASB Practice Statement 2. The amending standard requires the disclosure of material, rather than significant, accounting policies, and clarifies what is considered a change in accounting policy compared to a change in accounting estimate.

AASB 2021-6 amends the Tier 2 reporting requirements set out in AASB 1049, AASB 1054 and AASB 1060 to reflect the changes made by AASB 2021-2.

These amending standards are not expected to have a material impact on the AEC's financial statements for the current or future reporting periods.

Taxation

The AEC is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax (FBT) and goods and services tax (GST).

Reporting of administered activities

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the administered schedules and related notes.

Except where otherwise stated, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Events after the reporting period

There were no events after the reporting date that materially affected the financial statements.

Section 83 of the Constitution

Section 83 of the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900* (the Constitution) provides that no amount may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund except under an appropriation made by law. The AEC has controls in place to reduce any instances of non-compliance with section 83 wherever possible and ensure there is no intentional misuse of funds. Recovery action is taken to rectify any instance of non-compliance as soon as it is identified.

In 2023, the AEC identified 5 payments totalling \$31,332 from the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and 1 payment of \$20 from the Services for Other Entities and Trust Monies special account that were not consistent with section 83 of the Constitution. The amounts were for valid payments however due to an administrative error they were initially drawn down from the incorrect appropriation. All monies were repaid upon identification of the issue. No section 83 breaches were identified during 2022.

Financial performance

1.1 Expenses

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
1.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	93,974	194,423
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	14,386	16,429
Defined benefit plans	4,908	6,200
Leave and other entitlements	10,696	7,486
Separation and redundancies	210	49
Total employee benefits	124,174	224,587

Accounting policy

Liabilities for short-term employee benefits and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as the net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the entity's superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2022. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Superannuation

Staff are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap), or other non-government superannuation funds. The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's administered schedules and notes. The AEC makes employer contributions to defined benefit superannuation schemes at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. The AEC accounts for these amounts as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions.

2023	2022
\$'000	\$'000

1.1B: Suppliers

Goods and services supplied or rendered

Contractors	54,170	124,678
IT services	33,602	28,708
Property ¹	13,569	21,772
Office supplies	8,864	7,093
Mail and freight	8,275	35,918
Advertising	8,043	25,680
Travel	5,614	5,393
Employee related	3,353	6,753
Consultants	2,385	2,564
Furniture and venue hire	1,029	16,106
Inventory consumed	912	10,583
Other	4,657	4,086
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	144,473	289,334

Goods supplied	7,861	33,728
Services rendered ¹	136,612	255,606
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	144,473	289,334

Other suppliers

Workers compensation expenses	1,527	1,612
Short-term and low value leases ¹	20,169	32,082
Total other suppliers	21,696	33,694
Total suppliers	166,169	323,028

1. Comparatives have been adjusted for a reclassification of \$32.0m to short-term leases from property expenses. Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2022: 30 days). Settlement of supplier payables is usually made within 20 days.

Accounting policy

Short-term leases and leases of low value assets

The AEC has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low value assets (less than \$10,000 per asset). The AEC recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.1C: Finance costs

Interest on lease liabilities	429	433
Unwinding of discount	188	-
Total finance costs	617	433

Accounting policy

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

1.2 Revenue

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000

1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers

Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers

Type of customer:

Australian Government entities (related parties)	6,641	7,131
State and Territory Governments	11,779	10,921
Non-government entities	5	17
Total revenue from contracts with customers	18,425	18,069

Timing of transfer of goods and services:

Over time	16,788	16,589
Point in time	1,637	1,480
Total revenue from contracts with customers	18,425	18,069

Revenue from contracts with customers are for services rendered, primarily for the management and provision of the electoral roll. The AEC also supports international elections and conducts protected action ballots.

Accounting policy

The AEC classifies goods and service based agreements as within the scope of AASB 15 when all the following conditions are satisfied:

- there is an agreement that has been approved by all parties to the agreement;
- the obligations of each party under the agreement can be identified;
- a pattern of transfer of services can be identified;
- the agreement has commercial substance;
- it is highly probable that the AEC will collect the payments.

The AEC recognises goods and services revenue within the scope of AASB 15 either at a point in time when the performance obligation has been completed or over time with proportionate recognition over the period of the agreement. Consideration can be received in advance of the performance obligation being fulfilled in which case an unearned revenue liability is raised in relation to those performance obligations (refer note 2.3A).

1.2B: Other revenue

Resources received free of charge

Remuneration of auditors	100	99
Australian Taxation Office reporting fees	50	-
Other	33	-
Total other revenue	183	99

Accounting policy

Resources received free of charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
1.2C: Revenue from Government			
Appropriations			
Departmental appropriations - operating	3.1A	220,525	508,764
Departmental special appropriations	3.1C	14,900	14,900
Total revenue from government		235,425	523,664

Accounting policy

Revenue from Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when the AEC gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

Departmental financial position

2.1 Financial assets

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
2.1: Trade and other receivables		
Goods and services receivables	2,433	1,223
Appropriation receivables	58,550	188,154
Other receivables		
Statutory receivables	2,152	10,339
Total other receivables	2,152	10,339
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	63,135	199,716
Less expected credit loss allowance	(156)	(190)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	62,979	199,526

Accounting policy

Financial assets

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank and on hand.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any loss allowance. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Trade receivables and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below-market interest rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on expected credit losses, using the simplified approach which always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses.

2.2: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment and intangibles

	Leasehold improvements		Plant and equipment		Computer software		Total \$'000
	Owned \$'000	ROU \$'000	Owned \$'000	ROU \$'000	Total \$'000	Total \$'000	
As at 1 July 2022							
Gross book value	20,896	98,341	19,662	304	104,531	243,734	
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(3,420)	(42,209)	(3,328)	(178)	(58,098)	(107,233)	
Total as at 1 July 2022	17,476	56,132	16,334	126	46,433	136,501	
Additions							
Purchase	2,709	-	4,528	-	15,576	22,813	
Internally developed	-	-	-	-	21,583	21,583	
ROU assets	-	11,441	-	-	-	11,441	
Write-down and impairments recognised in net cost of services	(656)	-	(852)	-	(12,094)	(13,602)	
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	1,451	-	(1,167)	-	-	284	
Depreciation and amortisation	(3,214)	(18,268)	(5,008)	(66)	(2,114)	(28,670)	
Other movements	-	-	(976)	-	976	-	
Total as at 30 June 2023	17,766	49,305	12,859	60	70,360	150,350	
Total as at 30 June 2023 represented by							
Gross book value	11,969	92,349	9,510	180	69,077	183,085	
Work-in progress	7,047	-	3,976	-	57,232	68,255	
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(1,250)	(43,044)	(627)	(120)	(55,949)	(100,990)	
Total as at 30 June 2023	17,766	49,305	12,859	60	70,360	150,350	

No property, plant and equipment or intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Revaluations of non-financial assets

All revaluations were conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy below. The last revaluation was conducted by an independent valuer as at 30 June 2023.

Fair value measurement

At 30 June 2023, leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment assets were measured at fair value. All right-of-use (ROU) leased assets and intangibles are measured at cost.

Accounting policy

Asset capitalisation thresholds and useful lives for all asset classes are set out below. Useful lives remain unchanged from 2022. The capitalisation threshold for all assets was \$2,000 in 2022.

Class	2023 Useful life	2023 Threshold
Plant and equipment	5 to 10 years	\$5,000
IT Equipment	3 to 5 years	\$5,000
Computer software	1 to 10 years	\$10,000
Leasehold improvements	Lesser of lease term/ useful life	\$10,000
ROU assets	Lease term (including extension options)	\$10,000 ¹

¹ Refers to the underlying asset value, not the calculated ROU asset.

Property, plant and equipment

Unless otherwise stated, depreciation rates are applied on a straight-line basis. Rates, useful lives and indicators of impairment are assessed annually, with any necessary adjustments recognised as appropriate.

Property, plant and equipment (excluding ROU assets) are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets. The last revaluation was conducted by an independent valuer as at 30 June 2023.

Computer software

The AEC's intangibles comprise internally developed and purchased software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software assets (including work-in progress) were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2023. The impairment has been reflected in the statement of comprehensive income.

Leased right-of-use (ROU) assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise of the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. Subsequently, ROU assets are measured at cost and accounted for as separate asset classes to the corresponding owned assets.

An impairment review is undertaken annually and where appropriate, the carrying value is adjusted.

Inventories

Inventories are held for distribution and are valued at cost, adjusted for any loss of service potential.

Costs incurred in bringing each item of inventory to its present location and condition are assigned as follows:

- (a) raw materials and stores – purchase cost on a first-in-first-out basis; and
- (b) finished goods and work-in-progress – cost of direct materials and labour plus attributable costs that can be allocated on a reasonable basis.

Inventories acquired at no cost or nominal consideration are initially measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

2.3 Other payables and provisions

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
2.3A: Other payables		
Contract liabilities from contracts with customers	3,232	5,649
Salaries and wages	2,684	5,102
Superannuation	487	522
Other	178	249
Total other payables	6,581	11,522

The contract liabilities from contracts with customers relate to support for international elections.

2.3B: Provision for restoration

	\$'000
As at 1 July 2022	5,196
Additional provisions made ¹	15,154
Amounts used (paid)	(168)
Amounts reversed	(96)
Unwinding of discount or change in discount rate	188
Total as at 30 June 2023	20,274

1. Additional provisions include property makegood revaluations for existing arrangements which resulted in a \$8.8 million decrement to the asset revaluation reserve.

Accounting judgements and estimates

For property leases where the AEC has an obligation to restore the premises to their original condition, the AEC assesses the value of the provision for restoration in line with the relevant clauses of the lease, based on estimated costs per square metre provided by the Australian Government property manager. The AEC revalues the provision at the end of each financial year to reflect the present value of this obligation.

2.4 Interest bearing liabilities

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000

2.4: Leases

Lease liabilities	44,810	57,653
Total leases	44,810	57,653

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2023 was \$18.3m (2022: \$14.0m).

Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows

Within 1 year	15,561	17,567
Between 1 to 5 years	20,841	29,259
More than 5 years	9,469	12,215
Total leases	45,871	59,041

The AEC in its capacity as lessee has office space and fleet motor vehicles leases.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 2.2, 1.1B and 1.1C.

Accounting policy

For all new contracts entered into, the AEC considers whether the contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the AEC's incremental borrowing rate.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to leases. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the ROU asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

Funding

3.1 Appropriations

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
3.1A: Annual appropriations ('recoverable GST exclusive')		
Ordinary annual services		
Annual appropriation		
Ordinary annual services	220,525	508,764
Section 74 receipts	51,904	48,618
Departmental capital budget ¹	49,959	37,136
Total	322,388	594,518
Appropriation applied		
Operating	(372,276)	(533,798)
Departmental capital budget	(80,216)	(13,019)
Total appropriation applied	(452,492)	(546,817)
Variance ²	(130,104)	47,701

1. Departmental capital budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1, 3, 5). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

2. The variance reflects payments made during 2022-23 for expenses funded in 2021-22 for the 2022 federal election and capital projects.

3.1B: Unspent annual appropriations ('recoverable GST exclusive')

Departmental

<i>Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2022-2023</i>	40,907	-
<i>Supply Act (No. 3) 2022-2023 - departmental capital budget</i>	17,643	-
<i>Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2021-2022</i>	-	42,828
<i>Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2021-2022 - departmental capital budget</i>	-	37,136
<i>Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2021-2022</i>	-	97,426
<i>Supply Act (No. 1) 2020-2021 - departmental capital budget</i>	-	6,175
<i>Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020-2021 - departmental capital budget</i>	-	4,589
Cash and cash equivalents	1,368	1,868
Total departmental	59,918	190,022

3.1C: Special Appropriations ('recoverable GST exclusive')

Authority	Appropriation applied	
<i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 section 92 (Departmental)</i>	14,900	14,900
<i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 section 302 (Administered)</i>	46,823	29,329
<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 section 77</i>	89	-
Total special appropriations applied	61,812	44,229

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 section 92 (Departmental) special appropriation is limited to \$14.9m.

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 section 302 (Administered) special appropriation is not limited.

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 section 77 special appropriation is an unlimited refund appropriation to enable repayment of funds for incorrect or unidentified payments earlier received and sent to the OPA as an administered receipt.

No entities spent money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund on behalf of the AEC.

3.2 Special accounts

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Services for other entities and trust monies (SOETM)		
Balance brought forward from previous period	6,177	2,910
Increases	40	3,273
Available for payments	6,217	6,183
Decreases	1,624	6
Total balance carried to the next period	4,593	6,177
Balance represented by:		
Cash held in the Official Public Account	4,593	6,177

Appropriation: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* section 78.

Establishing instrument: *PGPA Act Determination (Australian Electoral Commission SOETM Special Account 2022)* commenced on 29 September 2022 (Previously: *Financial Management and Accountability (Establishment of SOETM Special Account - AEC) Determination 2012/04* which was repealed on 28 September 2022). A balance of \$4.6m was transferred to the new special account on 29 September 2022. The special account sunsets on 1 October 2032.

Purpose: For the expenditure of monies held in trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth, for example, political candidate deposits.

The special account balance is held in trust.

3.3 Net cash appropriation arrangements

Total comprehensive (deficit) / income - as per the statement of comprehensive income	(87,537)	(24,539)
Plus: depreciation / amortisation of assets funded through departmental capital appropriations ¹	10,336	6,817
Plus: depreciation ROU assets ²	18,334	12,304
Less: lease principal repayments ²	<u>(17,882)</u>	<u>(13,561)</u>
Net cash operating (deficit) / surplus	<u>(76,749)</u>	<u>(18,979)</u>

1. From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where revenue appropriations for depreciation / amortisation expenses of non-corporate Commonwealth entities and selected corporate Commonwealth entities were replaced with a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.

2. The inclusion of depreciation / amortisation expenses relating to ROU assets and the lease liability principal repayment amount reflects the impact of AASB 16 *Leases*, which does not directly reflect a change in appropriation arrangements.

The AEC's ongoing annual funding model presumes a federal election is conducted solely within a financial year and does not consider the variable nature of the timing of an event e.g. the 2022 federal election was held in May 2022 where election expenses were incurred in the 2021-22 year and continued to be incurred during the 2022-23 financial year. As a result the AEC may report an operating loss due to the timing of expenditure relating to electoral events.

People and relationships

4.1 Key management personnel remuneration

Key management personnel (KMP) are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the AEC, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of the AEC. The AEC has determined the KMP to be the Electoral Commissioner, Deputy Electoral Commissioner and the four First Assistant Commissioners, including acting arrangements where it is determined the individual meets the definition of a KMP. KMP remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term benefits	1,899	1,726
Post-employment benefits	281	271
Other long-term benefits	79	50
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	2,259	2,047

The total number of KMP included in the above table is 7 (2022: 6).

1. The above KMP remuneration excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Portfolio Minister. The Portfolio Minister's remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by the AEC.

4.2 Related party disclosures

Related party relationships

The AEC is an Australian Government controlled entity. Related parties to the AEC are KMP, the Portfolio Minister and Executive, and other Australian Government entities.

Transactions with related parties

Given the breadth of Government activities, related parties may transact with the government sector in the same capacity as ordinary citizens. Such transactions include the payment or refund of taxes, receipt of a Medicare rebate or higher education loans. These transactions have not been separately disclosed in this note.

Managing uncertainties

5.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

At 30 June 2023, the AEC had no departmental or administered quantifiable or unquantifiable contingent assets or liabilities (2022: nil).

Accounting policy

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a asset or liability or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

5.2 Financial instruments

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000

5.2A: Categories of financial instruments

Financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Cash and cash equivalents	1,368	1,868
Trade and other receivables	2,277	1,033
Total financial assets at amortised cost	3,645	2,901

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

Suppliers	14,308	92,357
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	14,308	92,357

5.2B: Administered - Categories of financial instruments

Financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Cash and cash equivalents	-	2
Total financial assets at amortised cost	-	2

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

Suppliers	9	47,083
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	9	47,083

Other information

6.1 Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
6.1A: Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities		
Assets expected to be recovered in		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,368	1,868
Trade and other receivables	62,979	199,526
Prepayments	8,094	4,610
Total no more than 12 months	72,441	206,004
More than 12 months		
Leasehold improvements	67,071	73,608
Plant and equipment	12,919	16,460
Computer software	70,360	46,433
Inventories	2,520	3,230
Prepayments	2,935	370
Total more than 12 months	155,805	140,101
Total assets	228,246	346,105
Liabilities expected to be settled in		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	14,308	92,357
Other payables	6,477	11,344
Leases	15,103	17,093
Employee provisions	6,629	6,792
Provision for restoration	4,139	1,052
Total no more than 12 months	46,656	128,638
More than 12 months		
Other payables	104	178
Leases	29,707	40,560
Employee provisions	16,691	16,054
Provision for restoration	16,135	4,144
Total more than 12 months	62,637	60,936
Total liabilities	109,293	189,574

6.1B Administered – current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

At 30 June 2023, all administered assets and liabilities are expected to be recovered or settled within 12 months.

SECTION 07

Appendices

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

Additional information

Appendices

Appendix A: Resources

Table 10: Entity resource statement 2022–23

	Actual Available appropriation for 2022–23 (a) \$'000	Payments made 2022–23 (b) \$'000	Balance remaining 2022–23 (a) – (b) \$'000
Departmental			
Annual appropriations – ordinary annual services ¹	512,410	452,492	59,918
Total departmental annual appropriations	512,410	452,492	59,918
Departmental special appropriations ²	14,900	14,900	–
Total departmental special appropriations	14,900	14,900	–
Total departmental resourcing (A)	527,310	467,392	59,918
Administered			
Total administered special appropriations ²	–	46,912	
Total administered resourcing (B)	–	46,912	
Total resourcing and payments for the Australian Electoral Commission (A + B)	527,310	514,304	

¹ *Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2022–2023, Supply Act (No. 1) 2022–2023 and Supply Act (No. 3) 2022–2023*. This may also include prior year departmental appropriation and external revenue under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in the Appropriation Act (No. 1) and Supply Acts (Nos. 1,3) and form part of ordinary annual services items. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner'.

² Excludes trust moneys held in Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys (SOETM) and other special accounts.

Table 11: Expenses and resources for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Maintain an impartial and independent electoral system for eligible voters through active electoral roll management, efficient delivery of polling services, and targeted education and public awareness programs	Budget ¹ 2022–23 (a) \$'000	Actual expenses 2022–23 (b) \$'000	Variation 2022–23 (a) – (b) \$'000
Program 1.1 Deliver Electoral Events			
Administered expenses			
Special appropriations	–	83	(83)
Special account	–	1,624	(1,624)
Administered total	–	1,707	(1,707)
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation	220,525	275,631	(55,106)
s74 External revenue ²	11,037	18,425	(7,388)
Special appropriations	14,900	14,900	–
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ³	12,835	24,276	(11,441)
Departmental total	259,297	333,232	(73,935)
Total expenses for Program 1.1	259,297	334,939	(75,642)
Total expenses for Outcome 1	259,297	334,939	(75,642)

1 Full-year budget published in the October Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23.

2 Estimated expenses incurred in relation to receipts retained under section 74 of the PGPA Act.

3 Includes unfunded depreciation and amortisation expenses (excluding depreciation of right-of-use assets), write-down and impairment of assets, resources received free of charge and non-cash adjustments to make-good.

Table 12: Average staffing levels 2020–21 to 2022–23

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Average staffing level (number)	678	748	745

Appendix B: Governance

Accountable authority

Table 13: Details of accountable authority during current report period 2022–23

Name	Position title/position held	Date of commencement	Date of cessation
Mr Tom Rogers	Electoral Commissioner Australian Electoral Commission	15/12/2014	n/a

Audit Committee details

Table 14: Audit Committee

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience (include formal and informal as relevant)	Number of meetings attended/total number of meetings	Total annual remuneration (GST inc.)	Additional information
Darren Box New Chair From 26 May 2023	<p>Darren Box FCPA, Bachelor of Business (ACC), has over 30 years' experience spanning national social service to national security across the Commonwealth and United Kingdom, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extensive financial management organisational reform experience with a commitment to driving organisational change and building capability. <p>Founder of Darren Box Pty Ltd in 2020 specialising in consulting with a focus on professional coaching, facilitation, independent assurance and management consulting.</p>	1/1	\$2,461 (GST inclusive)	Independent member and Chair
Jennifer (Jenny) Morison AM To 26 May 2023 (retired)	<p>Jenny Morison FCA, BEc (Sydney University) has 40 years of broad professional experience across commerce and government, including as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> national chair board member of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand for four years, chief financial officer of a public company, and holder of senior positions in major international accounting firms an independent member and chair of Commonwealth audit and risk committees, and financial statement sub-committees for large and small government entities over the past two decades founder of Morison Consulting in 1996, specialising in government financial reforms, governance and consulting. <p>She was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2000 for services to women and accounting, and became a Member (AM) in the Order of Australia in 2022 for significant service to business in the field of accountancy and to professional associations.</p>	4/4	\$24,000 (GST inclusive)	Independent member and Chair

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience (include formal and informal as relevant)	Number of meetings attended/total number of meetings	Total annual remuneration (GST inc.)	Additional information
Mark Ridley	<p>Mark Ridley has bachelor degrees in commerce and accounting. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (FCA) and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Mark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has served as an independent member and chair of audit and risk committees for several large and medium-sized Commonwealth agencies since 2011, and helps entities oversee ICT projects. • was a senior partner of PwC Australia and held leadership roles in risk advisory, internal audit and ICT project assurance, including for large companies in manufacturing and financial services, and state and federal governments. 	5/5	\$22,850 (GST inclusive)	Independent member
Madonna (Donna) Moody	<p>Donna Moody, Bachelor of Business (Accountancy), is a retired senior Commonwealth public servant with a background in finance, governance and change management. Donna was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPA for more than 25 years • Chief Financial Officer of the Australian Taxation Office • holder of program and grant management positions in the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Health • Chief Information Officer of DSS. <p>Donna has been involved in, or been responsible for, major organisational changes.</p>	5/5	\$18,000 (GST exclusive)	Independent member

Business planning documents

Table 15: Business planning documents

Document	Purpose	Reviewed
AEC Corporate Plan 2022–23	The AEC's central planning document. Sets the strategic direction for the next four years through the agency's key activities. Includes analysis of our operating context (addressing environment, capabilities, risk oversight, management and cooperation) and planned performance of the agency.	Annually
Business Continuity Plans	Improves resilience to enable continuation of identified time critical business processes during and following a significant disruption to business operations.	Annually and as required
Business Planning and Performance Reporting Framework	Supports staff to deliver outcomes in the AEC Corporate Plan, manage resources and finances, and supports requirements of the PGPA Act.	Annually
Business Plans	Aligns activities with business planning and reporting.	Annually
Capital Management Plan	Summary of the AEC's actual and planned property and other capital expenditure across the budget and forward years.	Annually
Disability Inclusion Strategy	Identifies relevant target outcomes from the Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031.	Annually
Election Ready Road Map	Sets out and monitors the program of activity required to maintain election readiness.	Every election cycle
Fraud Control Plan	Prevents, detects and responds to fraud in accordance with Commonwealth law, fraud control policies and memorandums of understanding.	Every two years (or if significant organisational change occurs)
Information Technology Strategic Plan 2023–2025	Sets the AEC's desired information technology vision to 2025 and is supported by the IT Architecture Plan.	Annually
Strategic Internal Audit Program	Provides a forward looking flexible and risk-based program of internal audit activities to guide delivery of independent assurance.	Every six months
Property Management Plan	Direction on long-term management of leased property.	Annually
Reconciliation Action Plan	Sets activities to recognise and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in internal and external arrangements and activities.	Annually
Agency Security Plan	Strategies to protect staff, visitors, information, equipment and premises against harm, loss, interference and compromise.	Twice a year

AEC management committees

Table 16: AEC management committees

Committee	Function	Members ¹	Meeting frequency
Executive Leadership Team	Senior management team helping to deliver strategic leadership and operational management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC (Chair) • DEC • FAC Enabling and Regulation • FAC Service Delivery/National Election Manager • FAC Organisational Transformation • FAC Electoral Integrity and Operations 	Weekly
Organisational Health, Performance and Risk Committee	A strategic advisory and decision-making forum that reports to the Executive Leadership Team and the Electoral Commissioner. Responsible for organisational performance and complements the Audit Committee in a management capacity by assuring appropriate activities have been completed and meet Audit Committee expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEC (Chair) • FAC Enabling and Regulation (Deputy Chair) • FAC Service Delivery • FAC Organisational Transformation • FAC Electoral Integrity and Operations • CPO • AC Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution • CFO <p>Advisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Audit Executive 	Every two months
National Operations and Readiness Committee	Oversee and monitor the agency's operations with a particular focus on preparation, readiness, and delivery of electoral event-related services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAC Service Delivery Group • FAC Electoral Integrity and Operations Group • FAC Enabling and Regulation Group • SM QLD • SM NSW/ACT • SM Victoria • SM Tasmania • SM South Australia • SM Western Australia • Territory Manager Northern Territory • AC Delivery and Support • AC Service Design and Foundations • AC Strategic Priorities • AC Electoral Integrity and Communications • AC Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution Branch • CLO • CIO • CPO <p>Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFO 	Every six weeks

¹ Electoral Commissioner (EC); Deputy Electoral Commissioner (DEC); First Assistant Commissioner (FAC); Assistant Commissioner (AC); Chief Financial Officer (CFO); Chief Information Officer (CIO); Chief People Officer (CPO); Chief Legal Officer (CLO); State Manager (SM); Australian Electoral Officer (AEO)

Committee	Function	Members ¹	Meeting frequency
National Election Delivery Committee	Drive, co-ordinate, monitor and command the conduct of the electoral events across the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAC Service Delivery Group • FAC Electoral Integrity and Operations Group • FAC Enabling and Regulation Group • AEO Qld • AEO NSW • AEO ACT • AEO Victoria • AEO Tasmania • AEO South Australia • AEO Western Australia • AEO Northern Territory • AC Delivery and Support Branch • AC Service Design and Foundations Branch • AC Strategic Priorities Branch • AC Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch • AC Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution Branch • CPO • CIO • CLO <p>Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFO • Watch Commander, AEC Command Centre • Director, Communications • Assistant Director, Communications • Team Leader, Election Compliance and Monitoring Team • Director, TEW Support 	Daily from the announcement of an electoral event through to return of writ

Committee	Function	Members ¹	Meeting frequency
Referendum Coordination Committee (previously Referendum Steering Committee)	Provide strategic oversight, visibility and coordination of the related policy and operational work across relevant functions of the AEC and across the National Operations and Readiness Committee (NOR) to support internal planning for the delivery of the Voice to Parliament referendum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEC (Chair) • FAC Service Delivery (Deputy Chair) • FAC Enabling and Regulation • AC, Service Design and Foundations • AC, Delivery and Support • AC, Strategic Priorities • AC, Electoral Integrity and Communications • AC, Disclosure, Party Registration & Redistribution • AC, Communication, Education and Engagement • AEO Qld • AEO NSW • AEO ACT • AEO Victoria • AEO Tasmania • AEO South Australia • AEO Western Australia • AEO Northern Territory • CPO • Director, RAMP Taskforce • Director, Community and International Engagement • Director, Communications • Director, Media and Digital Engagement • Director, Workforce and Engagement Strategies • CLO • CFO 	RCC has met weekly since 31 January 2023. RSC met fortnightly.

Committee	Function	Members ¹	Meeting frequency
Electoral Integrity Committee	<p>The Committee is a strategic advisory and decision-making forum and reports to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) to assist the Commissioner in setting the agency's strategic direction. Key functions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing governance and assurance on the AEC cyber, physical and personnel security • guiding and coordinating the agency's preparedness and engagement with the Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce • provide governance and assurance on AEC fraud control, privacy and related risks • oversee and mature our information and knowledge management • monitor and administer AEC's capability, performance, conformance and assurance of our regulatory functions covering funding and disclosure matters and the authorisation of electoral communications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAC Electoral Integrity and Operations (Chair) • FAC Service Delivery (Deputy Chair) • AC Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution • AC Digital Technology • AC Electoral Integrity and Communications • AC Enterprise Strategy and Modernisation • CFO • CLO • AC Service Design and Foundations • Director Defending Democracy Unit • Director AEC Command Centre and Physical Security • SM, Queensland • Director Operations, NSW <p>Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Cyber Security and Assurance (and IT Security Advisor) • Agency Security Advisor 	Every six weeks
Investment, Change and People Strategy Committee	<p>To drive and govern the agency's performance against the Corporate Plan 2022–23 key activity four, 'Maintain a capable and agile organisation and continue to professionalise our workforce'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAC Organisational Transformation (Chair) • FAC Enabling and Regulation (Deputy Chair) • AC Enterprise Strategy and Modernisation • FAC Service Delivery • AC Modernisation Delivery • AC Service Design and Foundations • CIO • CPO • CFO • SM, South Australia • Director, National Training and Education Unit • Director, Enterprise Portfolio Management Office • Director, Program Transformation <p>Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent advisor, National Indigenous Australians Agency • Independent advisor, Bull and Bear • Director, Transformation Strategy and Change 	Every six weeks

Committee	Function	Members ¹	Meeting frequency
Indigo Steering Committee	The Committee is a strategic decision-making and assurance forum that ensures the Indigo Program is being executed within the parameters agreed to in the Business Case and as approved by government. It provides governance oversight for all projects under the Indigo Program and is aligned with the broader intent of the agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAC Organisational Transformation (Chair) • AC Enterprise Strategy and Modernisation (Deputy Chair) • FAC Enabling and Regulation • FAC Electoral Integrity and Operations • FAC Service Delivery • AC Modernisation Delivery • CIO • CFO • Director, Enterprise Project Management Office <p>Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPO • AC Delivery and Support • AC Service Design and Foundations • AC Electoral Integrity and Communications • SM, New South Wales • Two independent advisors 	Every six weeks
National Work Health and Safety Committee	A consultative forum to address health and safety at a national and strategic level, with reference to the requirements of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i> and the <i>Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPO (Chair) • Management representatives • Employee representatives <p>Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From People Branch and others as appropriate to the topic at hand 	Quarterly and out-of-session as required
Education and Engagement Committee	Provides oversight to ensure sustained improvement in voter awareness, education, engagement and experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEC (Chair) • AC Service Design and Foundations Branch (Deputy Chair) • SM, NSW • Director, National Training and Education Unit • Director, Community and International Engagement • Director, Communications • Director, Operations QLD and WA 	Every six weeks (from July to December 2023)

Appendix C: Commonwealth Electoral Roll information

Enrolment rate and enrolled population

Figure 4: Enrolment rate trend from 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2023

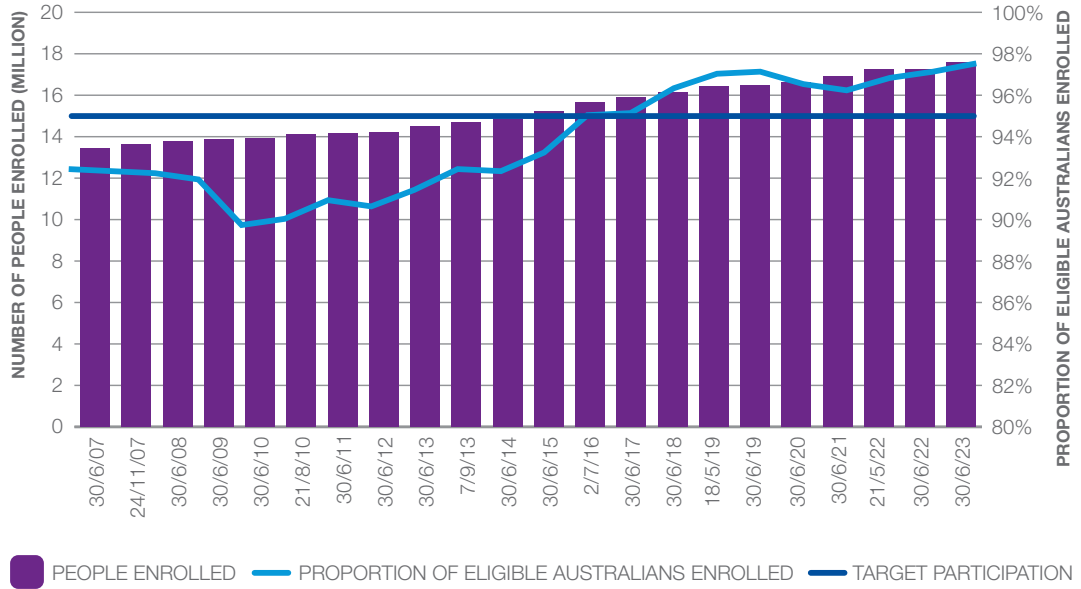


Table 17: Senators and Members of the House of Representatives provided with electoral roll extracts, 2022–23¹

Name	Electorate/state	Roll data provided	Date provided
Mr Stephen Bates MP	Member for Brisbane	Division of Brisbane	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Hon Andrew Gee MP	Member for Calare	Division of Calare	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Mr Andrew Wilkie MP	Member for Clark	Division of Clark	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Ms Kate Chaney MP	Member for Curtin	Division of Curtin	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Hon Michael Sukkar MP	Member for Deakin	Division of Deakin	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Hon Sussan Ley MP	Member for Farrer	Division of Farrer	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Mr Bert van Manen MP	Member for Forde	Division of Forde	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Ms Dai Le MP	Member for Fowler	Division of Fowler	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Ms Zoe Daniel MP	Member for Goldstein	Division of Goldstein	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Mr Max Chandler-Mather MP	Member for Griffith	Division of Griffith	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Hon Mark Butler MP	Member for Hindmarsh	Division of Hindmarsh	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Dr Helen Haines MP	Member for Indi	Division of Indi	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Hon Bob Katter MP	Member for Kennedy	Division of Kennedy	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Dr Monique Ryan MP	Member for Kooyong	Division of Kooyong	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Hon Jason Wood MP	Member for La Trobe	Division of La Trobe	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Dr Sophie Scamps MP	Member for Mackellar	Division of Mackellar	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Ms Rebekha Sharkie MP	Member for Mayo	Division of Mayo	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Mr Adam Bandt MP	Member for Melbourne	Division of Melbourne	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Ms Kylea Tink MP	Member for North Sydney	Division of North Sydney	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Ms Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP	Member for Ryan	Division of Ryan	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Mr Luke Gosling MP	Member for Solomon	Division of Solomon	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Ms Zali Steggall MP	Member for Warringah	Division of Warringah	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Ms Allegra Spender MP	Member for Wentworth	Division of Wentworth	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator David Pocock	Senator for the Australian Capital Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator the Hon Marise Payne	Senator for New South Wales	State of New South Wales	Oct 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Hollie Hughes	Senator for New South Wales	State of New South Wales	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Perin Davey	Senator for New South Wales	State of New South Wales	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator David Shoebridge	Senator for New South Wales	State of New South Wales	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan	Senator for Queensland	State of Queensland	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023

¹ Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023

Name	Electorate/state	Roll data provided	Date provided
Senator Penny Allman-Payne	Senator for Queensland	State of Queensland	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator the Hon James McGrath	Senator for Queensland	State of Queensland	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Larissa Waters	Senator for Queensland	State of Queensland	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Malcolm Roberts	Senator for Queensland	State of Queensland	Jan 2023 – Jun 2023
Senator Alex Antic	Senator for South Australia	State of South Australia	May 2023 – Jun 2023
Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham	Senator for South Australia	State of South Australia	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator the Hon David Fawcett	Senator for South Australia	State of South Australia	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Karen Grogan	Senator for South Australia	State of South Australia	Oct 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young	Senator for South Australia	State of South Australia	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Andrew McLachlan	Senator for South Australia	State of South Australia	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Barbara Pocock	Senator for South Australia	State of South Australia	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator the Hon Anne Ruston	Senator for South Australia	State of South Australia	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck	Senator for Tasmania	State of Tasmania	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Jacqui Lambie	Senator for Tasmania	State of Tasmania	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Nicholas McKim	Senator for Tasmania	State of Tasmania	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Peter Whish-Wilson	Senator for Tasmania	State of Tasmania	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator James Paterson	Senator for Victoria	State of Victoria	Oct 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Janet Rice	Senator for Victoria	State of Victoria	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Lidia Thorpe	Senator for Victoria	State of Victoria	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds	Senator for Western Australia	State of Western Australia	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Dorinda Cox	Senator for Western Australia	State of Western Australia	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Senator Jordon Steele-John	Senator for Western Australia	State of Western Australia	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023

¹ Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023

Table 18: Registered political parties provided with electoral roll extracts, 2022–23¹

Registered political party	Roll data provided	Date provided
Australian Labor Party	National	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Liberal Party of Australia	National	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Australian Greens	National	Jul 2022 – Jun 2023
Australian Federation Party	National	Oct 2022 – Jun 2023
Indigenous – Aboriginal Party of Australia	New South Wales	May 2023 – Jun 2023
National Party of Australia – NSW	New South Wales	Aug 2022 – Jun 2023
Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division	New South Wales	Sep 2022 – Apr 2023
Pauline Hanson’s One Nation	Queensland	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Australian Democrats	South Australia	Apr 2023 – Jun 2023
Centre Alliance	South Australia	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
Animal Justice Party	Victoria	May 2023 – Jun 2023
Australian Citizens Party	Victoria	Apr 2023 – Jun 2023
National Party of Australia – Victoria	Victoria	Oct 2022 – Jun 2023
Australian Christians	Western Australia	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023
National Party of Australia (WA) Inc	Western Australia	Apr 2023 – Jun 2023
The Greens (WA) Inc	Western Australia	Sep 2022 – Jun 2023

¹ Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023

Australian government departments and agencies may receive electoral roll information if they are a ‘prescribed authority’, under item 4 of the table in subsection 90B(4) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

Table 19: Australian government departments and agencies (prescribed authorities) provided with electoral roll extracts, 2022–23¹

Institution	Data provided			
	Aug 2022	Nov 2022	Feb 2023	May 2023
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Yes	No	No	No
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Australian Federal Police	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Australian Financial Security Authority	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Australian Securities and Investments Commission	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Australian Taxation Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Commonwealth Superannuation Commission	No	Yes	Yes	No
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Australian Passport Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Home Affairs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General	Yes	No	No	No
Services Australia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sport Integrity Australia	No	Yes	Yes	No

¹ Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023

Table 20: Medical and electoral research organisations provided with electoral roll extracts, 2022–23^{1,2}

Institution	Data provided
Electoral research	
Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated	A random sample of 2,500 records of men and women in two-year age ranges across all federal electoral divisions for the study 'Australian Survey of Social Attitudes: Family and Changing Gender Roles'.

¹ Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023

² Extracts of the electoral roll may be provided for medical research or health screening purposes under item 2 of the table in subsection 90B(4). No applications were approved for 2022–23.

Under items 5–7 of the table in subsection 90B(4) of the Electoral Act, prescribed organisations may receive roll information for identity verification purposes under the *Financial Transactions Reports Act 1988* and the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006*.

Table 21: Provision of electoral roll information to prescribed organisations, 2022–23^{1,2}

Institution	Data provided			
	Aug 2022	Nov 2022	Feb 2023	May 2023
Equifax (Veda Advantage Information Services and Solutions Ltd)	Yes	Yes	No	No
illion (Perceptive Communications Pty Ltd)	Yes	No	No	No

¹ Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023

² Extracts of the electoral roll ceased to be available to illion and Equifax after November 2022. Access to electoral roll data subsequently became available to the Australian identity verification market through the Document Verification Service administered by the Department of Home Affairs.

Appendix D: Electoral events data

2023 Aston by-election data

Results and information relating to the Aston by-election can be found at the AEC Tally Room:
Aston, VIC – AEC Tally Room

Appendix E: Public awareness data

Advertising and market research

Research was undertaken during the period to inform the AEC's referendum campaign and creative strategy, and communication approach to supporting electoral participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We conducted advertising for early referendum education, First Nations enrolment uplift and the 2023 Aston by-election.

More information is available at www.aec.gov.au and in reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are on the Department of Finance's website. **Table 22** shows payments of \$15,200 or more (GST inclusive) to advertising agencies and market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising organisations, as required under section 311A of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. Figures reflect payments above the threshold unless otherwise specified.

Table 22: Advertising and media placement payments, \$15,200 or more

Services	Agency name	Details	Amount (GST inclusive)
Advertising creative development	BMF	Creative advertising services including production of materials for the referendum	\$3,614,083
	Carbon Creative	Creative advertising services including production and translation of materials for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences for the referendum	\$298,529
	Carbon Creative	Creative advertising services including concept development and production of materials for the First Nations enrolment campaign	\$229,461
Market research	Wallis	Administering voter survey in relation to the 2022 federal election	\$46,184
		Campaign evaluation research – AEC 2022 federal election campaign	\$229,411
		Procurement related research for temporary election workforce for the 2022 federal election	\$182,259
	Orima	Developmental research and creative concept testing for the referendum campaign	\$649,195
		User testing to assist in the development of the yes/no pamphlet	\$142,097
		Developmental research and refinement testing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communication for First Nations enrolment campaign	\$354,423
		Folk Pty Limited	Research to inform transformation strategy
Advertising placement	Universal McCann	Media buy for Aston by-election	\$63,135
		Pre-legislation campaign	\$957,323
		First Nations enrolment advertising campaign	\$965,267
		Referendum awareness disclosure campaign	\$56,310
		Party registration – advertising of applications	\$110,383
Total			\$7,969,647

Appendix F: Electoral redistribution data

There were no electoral redistributions commenced or completed in 2022–23.

Appendix G: Financial disclosure data

Election funding payments in 2022–23

Election funding entitlements are calculated as at the 20th day after polling day, and an automatic payment is made to eligible candidates and political parties.

To receive election funding greater than the automatic payment, the agent of the eligible political party, candidate or Senate group must lodge a claim with the AEC setting out the electoral expenditure incurred.

2022 federal election

For the 2022 federal election, the automatic payment amount was \$10,656.

Claims were required to be submitted to the AEC by 20 November 2022.

A total of 67 people or entities were entitled to lodge election funding claims related to the 2022 federal election (41 independent candidates or their agents, 26 political parties).

At the closure of the claim period, the AEC had received 59 election funding claims, with 45 claims being received in 2022–23. Details of the amounts paid are published on the Transparency Register as claims are determined. Eight entities received the automatic payment amount and did not submit a claim.

Total election funding paid in relation to the 2022 federal election was \$75,876,944.42. Of this total, \$47,267,851.35 was paid in 2022–23.

2023 Aston by-election

For the 2023 Aston by-election, the automatic payment amount was \$11,426. Claims were required to be submitted to the AEC by 30 September 2023.

A total of four people or entities were entitled to lodge election funding claims related to the 2023 Aston by-election (three political parties and one independent candidate).

At 30 June 2023, three election funding claims had been finalised. A further election funding claim was being assessed by the AEC. The value of election funding attributable to the Aston by-election is \$277,125.00.

Annual financial disclosure returns 2022–23

Annual financial disclosure returns and amendments received in 2022–23 include:

- 988 annual financial disclosure returns and amendments
- 865 returns and 68 amendments for the 2021–22 financial year
- 11 returns and 29 amendments for the 2020–21 financial year
- One return and eight amendments for the 2019–20 financial year
- six amendments for the 2018–19 financial year
- 1,488 election returns for the 2022 federal election.

Appendix H: Workforce statistics

Table 23: All ongoing employees by location, current report period 2022–23

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	33	3	36	57	13	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106
Qld	16	2	18	56	7	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81
SA	8	1	9	16	5	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Tas	6	-	6	7	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Vic	38	1	39	63	5	68	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	108
WA	10	-	10	23	4	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
ACT	145	3	148	240	24	264	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	412
NT	4	-	4	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
External Territories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overs eas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	260	10	270	466	59	525	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	796

Table 24: All non-ongoing employees by location, current report period 2022–23

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	2	-	2	9	5	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Qld	5	-	5	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
SA	2	-	2	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Tas	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Vic	5	-	5	11	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
WA	-	-	-	7	-	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
ACT	9	1	10	21	3	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
NT	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
External Territories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overseas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	24	1	25	66	9	75	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	101

Table 25: All ongoing employees by location, previous report period 2021–22

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total Male	Full-time	Part-time	Total Female	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	46	1	47	89	11	100	–	–	–	147
Qld	36	–	36	81	6	87	1	–	1	124
SA	13	1	14	17	2	19	–	–	–	33
Tas	6	–	6	13	3	16	–	–	–	22
Vic	52	1	53	89	5	94	–	–	–	147
WA	11	1	12	43	4	47	–	–	–	59
ACT	62	1	63	125	8	133	–	–	–	196
NT	1	–	1	2	–	2	–	–	–	3
External Territories	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Overseas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	227	5	232	459	39	498	1	–	1	731

Table 26: All non-ongoing employees by location, previous report period 2021–22

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total Male	Full-time	Part-time	Total Female	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	12	–	12	14	1	15	–	–	–	27
Qld	6	–	6	17	–	17	–	–	–	23
SA	6	1	7	12	–	12	–	–	–	19
Tas	2	–	2	6	–	6	–	–	–	8
Vic	9	–	9	25	3	28	–	–	–	37
WA	4	–	4	15	1	16	–	–	–	20
ACT	5	1	6	14	1	15	–	–	–	21
NT	–	–	–	2	–	2	–	–	–	2
External Territories	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Overseas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	44	2	46	105	6	111	–	–	–	157

Table 27: Australian Public Service Act 1999 ongoing employees, current report period 2022–23

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SES 2	2	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
SES 1	1	-	1	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
EL 2	19	-	19	38	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
EL 1	57	-	57	102	9	111	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168
APS 6	82	-	82	137	10	147	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	229
APS 5	59	4	63	71	4	75	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	139
APS 4	30	2	32	59	10	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101
APS 3	8	1	9	31	4	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
APS 2	1	3	4	17	22	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
APS 1	1	-	1	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	260	10	270	466	59	525	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	796

Table 28: Australian Public Service Act 1999 non-ongoing employees, current report period 2022–23

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SES 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SES 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EL 2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
EL 1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
APS 6	5	1	6	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
APS 5	7	-	7	12	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
APS 4	4	-	4	12	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
APS 3	4	-	4	32	5	37	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
APS 2	3	-	3	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
APS 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	24	1	25	66	9	75	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	101

Table 29: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* ongoing employees, previous report period 2021–22

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SES 2	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
SES 1	2	–	2	6	–	6	–	–	–	8
EL 2	15	–	15	33	–	33	–	–	–	48
EL 1	49	1	50	85	7	92	–	–	–	142
APS 6	71	1	72	128	7	135	–	–	–	207
APS 5	52	–	52	70	4	74	1	–	1	127
APS 4	24	1	25	57	10	67	–	–	–	92
APS 3	9	–	9	38	20	40	–	–	–	49
APS 2	3	2	5	42	9	51	–	–	–	56
APS 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	227	5	232	459	39	498	1	–	1	731

Table 30: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* non-ongoing employees, previous report period 2021–22

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SES 2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SES 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
EL 2	2	–	2	5	–	5	–	–	–	7
EL 1	3	–	3	12	–	12	–	–	–	15
APS 6	12	–	12	20	2	22	–	–	–	34
APS 5	7	–	7	13	–	13	–	–	–	20
APS 4	5	2	7	19	3	22	–	–	–	29
APS 3	14	–	14	31	1	32	–	–	–	46
APS 2	1	–	1	5	–	5	–	–	–	6
APS 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	44	2	46	105	6	111	–	–	–	157

Table 31: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* employees by full-time and part-time status, current report period 2022–23

	Ongoing			Non-ongoing			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total ongoing	Full-time	Part-time	Total non-ongoing	
SES 3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SES 2	4	–	4	–	–	–	4
SES 1	7	–	7	–	–	–	7
EL 2	57	–	57	1	–	1	58
EL 1	159	9	168	1	1	2	170
APS 6	219	10	229	12	1	13	242
APS 5	131	8	139	19	1	20	159
APS 4	89	12	101	16	1	17	118
APS 3	39	5	44	37	5	42	86
APS 2	18	25	43	5	1	6	49
APS 1	4	–	4	–	–	–	4
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	727	69	796	91	10	101	897

Table 32: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* employees by full-time and part-time status, previous report period 2021–22

	Ongoing			Non-ongoing			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total ongoing	Full-time	Part-time	Total non-ongoing	
SES 3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SES 2	2	–	2	–	–	–	2
SES 1	8	–	8	–	–	–	8
EL 2	48	–	48	7	–	7	55
EL 1	134	8	142	15	–	15	157
APS 6	199	8	207	32	2	34	241
APS 5	123	4	127	20	–	20	147
APS 4	81	11	92	24	5	29	121
APS 3	47	2	49	45	1	46	95
APS 2	45	11	56	6	–	6	62
APS 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	687	44	731	149	8	157	888

Table 33: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* employment types by location, current report period 2022–23

	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total
NSW	106	16	122
Qld	81	15	96
SA	30	5	35
Tas	14	3	17
Vic	108	17	125
WA	37	8	45
ACT	412	34	446
NT	8	3	11
External Territories	–	–	–
Overseas	–	–	–
Total	796	101	897

Table 34: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* employment types by location, previous report period 2021–22

	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total
NSW	147	27	174
Qld	124	23	147
SA	33	19	52
Tas	22	8	30
Vic	147	37	184
WA	59	20	79
ACT	196	21	217
NT	3	2	5
External Territories	–	–	–
Overseas	–	–	–
Total	731	157	888

Table 35: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* Indigenous employment, current report period 2022–23

	Total
Ongoing	17
Non-ongoing	4
Total	21

Table 36: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* Indigenous employment, previous report period 2021–22

	Total
Ongoing	16
Non-ongoing	2
Total	18

Table 37: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* employment arrangements, current report period 2022–23

	SES	Non-SES	Total
Enterprise Agreement	–	809	809
Individual Flexibility Agreement	–	77	77
Section 24	11	–	11
Total	11	886	897

Table 38: Australian *Public Service Act 1999* employment salary ranges by classification level (minimum/maximum), current report period 2022–23

	Minimum salary	Maximum salary
SES 3	\$–	\$–
SES 2	\$268,672	\$292,114
SES 1	\$211,465	\$247,200
EL 2	\$129,391	\$151,927
EL 1	\$109,443	\$123,331
APS 6	\$87,635	\$98,223
APS 5	\$79,169	\$86,763
APS 4	\$70,982	\$77,785
APS 3	\$63,686	\$69,793
APS 2	\$55,913	\$62,004
APS 1	\$49,404	\$54,604
Other	\$–	\$–
Minimum/Maximum range	\$49,404	\$292,114

Note: Non-SES salary ranges are based on the rates included in the AEC's Section 24 (1) Determination Instrument (2021–23). These rates do not reflect salaries negotiated through individual flexibility arrangements or the maintenance of employee salary on commencement from previous APS agency. SES salaries are set by the Electoral Commissioner in accordance with the Senior Executive Remuneration and Review Policy

Table 39: Statutory appointments under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* as of 30 June 2023

Position	Legislative provision for existence of role	Current occupant	Current term
Electoral Commissioner Australian Electoral Commission	Subsection 18(1) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Tom Rogers	5 years from 15/12/2019
Deputy Electoral Commissioner	Subsection 19(1) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Jeff Pope APM	5 years from 19/12/2021
Australian Electoral Officer NSW	Subsection 20(1) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Rebecca Main	5 years from 08/07/2021
Australian Electoral Officer Vic	Subsection 20(1) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Nye Coffey	5 years from 01/04/2021
Australian Electoral Officer Qld	Subsection 20(1) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Stephanie Attard	5 years from 08/02/2021
Australian Electoral Officer WA	Subsection 20(1) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Anita Ratcliffe	5 years from 05/06/2023
Australian Electoral Officer SA	Subsection 20(1) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Cameron Stokes	5 years from 04/02/2021
Australian Electoral Officer Tas	Subsection 20(1) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Hannah Brown	5 years from 12/07/2021
Australian Electoral Officer NT	Subsection 20(1) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Geoff Bloom	5 years from 08/07/2021
Chairperson Australian Electoral Commission	Subsection 6(2)(a) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	The Hon. Justice Susan Kenny AM	5 years from 23/09/2020
Non-judicial member Australian Electoral Commission	Subsection 6(2)(c) of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>	Dr David Gruen AO	Until 10/12/2024

Table 40: Information about remuneration for key management personnel (KMP)

Name	Position title	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination Benefits	Total remuneration
		Base salary	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances		Long service leave	Other long-term benefits		
Tom Rogers	Electoral Commissioner	\$529,182	-	-	\$74,814	\$18,973	-	-	\$622,969
Jeff Pope	Deputy Electoral Commissioner	\$354,653	-	-	\$46,285	\$10,444	-	-	\$411,382
Thomas Ryan	First Assistant Commissioner	\$271,898	-	\$150	\$49,481	\$13,874	-	-	\$335,403
Kathleen Gleeson	First Assistant Commissioner	\$260,255	-	\$1,614	\$36,371	\$10,895	-	-	\$309,135
Michael Lynch	First Assistant Commissioner	\$282,224	-	-	\$39,976	\$17,027	-	-	\$339,227
Rachael Spalding	First Assistant Commissioner	\$29,245	-	-	\$6,094	\$836	-	-	\$36,175
Robyn Black	Acting First Assistant Commissioner	\$168,562	-	\$1,206	\$27,922	\$7,233	-	-	\$204,923
Total		\$1,896,019	-	\$2,970	\$280,943	\$79,282	-	-	\$2,259,214

Table 41: Information about remuneration for Senior Executives (SES)

Remuneration band	Number of senior executives	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination Benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances		Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits		
\$0 – \$220,000	9	\$122,869	–	\$336	\$16,737	\$5,505	–	–	\$145,447
\$220,001–\$245,000	2	\$200,006	–	\$682	\$29,765	\$11,106	–	–	\$241,559
\$245,001–\$270,000	4	\$216,857	–	\$1,048	\$34,762	\$7,062	–	–	\$259,729
\$270,001–\$295,000	3	\$244,582	–	\$471	\$35,951	\$6,879	–	–	\$287,883
\$295,001–\$320,000	2	\$259,469	–	\$910	\$35,515	\$4,828	–	–	\$300,722

Table 42: Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff

Remuneration band	Number of other highly paid staff	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination Benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances		Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits		
\$240,001–\$245,000	1	\$192,030	–	\$1,364	\$37,890	\$10,580	–	–	\$241,864
\$245,001–\$270,000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
\$270,001–\$295,000	1	\$234,660	–	\$1,364	\$43,048	\$2,962	–	–	\$282,054

Appendix I: Electoral communications complaints

Table 43: Electoral communications complaints investigated by the AEC during the 2023 Aston by-election

Communication type	Number investigated by AEC	No breach of the Electoral Act	Electoral Act breaches	
			Section 321D	Section 329
Social media	–	–	–	–
Signs and print	4	1	3	–
Other communications	6	–	6	–
Total	10	1	9	–

Appendix J: Greenhouse gas emissions reporting

Table 44: Emissions reporting with electricity location-based approach

Emission source	Scope 1 kg CO2-e	Scope 2 kg CO2-e	Scope 3 kg CO2-e	Total kg CO2-e
Electricity (location-based approach)	–	2,508,567	267,902	2,776,469
Natural gas	2,385	–	185	2,570
Fleet vehicles	13,976	–	3,488	17,463
Domestic flights	–	–	632,260	632,260
Other energy	–	–	–	–
Total kg CO2-e	16,361	2,508,567	903,835	3,428,762

The electricity emissions reported above are calculated using the location-based approach. When applying the market-based method, which accounts for activities such as Greenpower, purchased LGCs and/or being located in the ACT, the total emissions for electricity are below:

Table 45: Emissions reporting with electricity market-based approach

Emission source	Scope 1 kg CO2-e	Scope 2 kg CO2-e	Scope 3 kg CO2-e	Total kg CO2-e
Electricity (location-based approach)	–	2,245,679	297,222	2,542,901
Natural gas	2,385	–	185	2,570
Fleet vehicles	13,976	–	3,488	17,463
Domestic flights	–	–	632,260	632,260
Other energy	–	–	–	–
Total kg CO2-e	16,361	2,245,679	933,155	3,195,195

SECTION 08

Reader guides

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

Abbreviations and acronyms, glossary and index
to the list of annual report requirements

Reader guides

Abbreviations and acronyms, glossary and index to the list of annual report requirements.

Abbreviations and acronyms

Term	Description
AAS	Australian Accounting Standards
AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AC	Assistant Commissioner
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
AECCC	AEC Command Centre
AEO	Australian Electoral Officer
AFP	Australian Federal Police
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
APS	Australian Public Service
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ARIR	Annual Roll Integrity Review
ASL	Average Staffing Level
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
CBD	Central business district
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CIO	Chief Information Officer
CLO	Chief Legal Officer
CPO	Chief People Officer
DEC	Deputy Electoral Commissioner
DDU	Defending Democracy Unit

Term	Description
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DLER	Directed Level of Election Readiness
DSS	Department of Social Services
DVS	Document Verification Service
EC	Electoral Commissioner
ECANZ	Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand
ECL	Electronic Certified List
EIAT	Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce
EIC	Electoral Integrity Committee
Electoral Act	<i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>
ELT	Executive Leadership Team
EMB	Electoral Management Body
EPMO	Enterprise Portfolio Management Office
FAC	First Assistant Commissioner
FDEU	Federal Direct Enrolment and Update
FOI	Freedom of Information
GVRs	Generic Voter Registration System
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IEPP	Indigenous Electoral Participation Program
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems

Term	Description
JSCEM	Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
MoAD	Museum of Australian Democracy
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NEEC	National Electoral Education Centre
NRS	National Relay Service
NZEC	New Zealand Electoral Commission
OES	Online Enrolment Services
PBS	Portfolio Budget Statements
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
PGPA Rule	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014</i>
PIANZEA	Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand Electoral Administrators
PGNEC	Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission
PLA	Provincial Logistics Assistants
Public Service Act	<i>Public Service Act 1999</i>
SES	Senior Executive Service
SIEO	Solomon Islands Electoral Office
SM	State Manager
SOETM	Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys
TEW	Temporary Election Workforce
WHS	Work health and safety

Glossary

Term	Description
Amortisation	Reductions in the value of assets to reflect their reduced worth over time.
Ballot	A secret vote, normally written.
Ballot box	The sealed container into which a voter places a completed ballot paper.
Ballot paper	A paper that shows the questions to be put or the names of the candidates who are standing for election and on which voters mark their vote.
By-election	An election held to fill a single vacancy in the House of Representatives.
Candidate	A person standing for election to the House of Representatives or Senate.
Certified list	The official electoral roll used to mark off voters at an election.
Claims for enrolment	Application form to enrol to vote or update enrolment.
Close of rolls	The date the electoral roll closes for the federal election, which is 8.00pm local Australian time on the seventh calendar day after the writs are issued.
Compulsory voting	The requirement for Australian citizens aged 18 years and over to enrol to vote and to vote at each election.
Constitution (Australian)	The document that sets out the structure under which the Australian Government operates. It can only be amended through a referendum.
Court of Disputed Returns	A court (in Australia, the High Court) that determines disputes about elections.
Declaration vote	Any vote where, instead of the voter being marked off the certified list, the vote is sealed in an envelope which is signed by the voter and admitted to the count only after further checks are completed.

Term	Description
Declaration of nominations	Formal announcement of candidates, whose names will appear on a ballot paper in an election.
Depreciation	A method of allocating the cost of a tangible asset over its useful life.
Elector	A person whose name appears on an electoral roll.
Electoral cycle	The period from one federal election to the next, usually three years.
Electoral division	The voting area, containing approximately equal numbers of voters, for which one member is elected to the House of Representatives. Australia is divided into 151 electoral divisions.
Electoral roll	The list of people enrolled to vote in an election or referendum.
Electorate	See 'electoral division' above.
Electronic certified list	An electronic list of eligible electors which is accessed through an electronic device to allow polling officials to efficiently search the list of eligible electors and record that an elector has been issued their ballot paper/s.
Employee	Member of staff that is ongoing, non-ongoing, intermittent or irregular.
Enrolment form	Application form to enrol to vote or update enrolment.
Federal election	A general election for the House of Representatives and Senate.
Fee-for-service election	An election or ballot conducted on a full cost recovery basis.
Financial disclosure return	A document detailing information on the receipts and expenditure of participants in the political process.

Term	Description
Formality or formal vote	A vote in an election or referendum where the ballot paper has been marked correctly and is counted towards the result. A ballot paper incorrectly marked is called informal.
Franchise	The right to vote.
Funding and disclosure	Public funding of election campaigns and disclosure of certain financial details by candidates, political parties and others.
General postal voter	A voter who is registered to have postal ballot papers sent automatically.
House of Representatives	The house of Parliament in which the government is formed. Each electoral division elects one member of the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives uses a preferential voting system.
Inventory balance	The worth of held goods and materials.
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	The parliamentary committee appointed to inquire into and report on matters relating to electoral laws and practices and their administration.
Member	Any person elected to Parliament, but commonly used for the House of Representatives.
Mobile polling team	Polling officials who bring polling to aged care facilities, remote locations, and other locations such as prisons and homeless shelters.
Nomination	Submission for candidacy for election to the Senate or House of Representatives.
Ordinary vote	A vote cast on or before voting day where the voter is able to be marked off the certified list.

Term	Description
Out-posted centre	Temporary premises established to house key election activities such as scrutines and dispatch, and return of materials to and from polling places.
Poll	An election – a count of votes or opinions.
Polling day	The day fixed for the election.
Polling place	A location for people to vote.
Postal vote	Ballot papers and certificate posted to a voter and returned to the AEC.
Preferential voting	A system of voting where a voter shows an order of preference for candidates by numbering their choices.
Pre-poll vote	A vote cast before voting day.
Protected action ballot	A workplace voting system whereby employees participate in a fair and secret ballot to determine whether industrial action should proceed in their workplace.
Provisional vote	Declaration vote cast at a polling place where the elector's name cannot be found on the roll, the name has already been marked off, or the voter has a silent enrolment.
Redistribution	A redrawing of electoral boundaries to ensure (as closely as possible) the same number of voters in each electoral division.
Referendum	A vote to change the Constitution.
Returned candidate	Candidate who is officially declared elected by a returning officer.

Term	Description
Returning officer	The person responsible for conducting an election in a particular area. A divisional returning officer is responsible for conducting the House of Representatives election in their electoral division. An Australian electoral officer is the returning officer for the Senate election in their state or territory.
Registered political party	A party registered with the AEC under Part XI of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> .
Revenue appropriations	Federal funds set aside each year for specific government programs.
Roll	The list of people enrolled to vote in an election or referendum.
Scrutineer	Someone nominated by a candidate to watch the issuing, counting or scrutiny of votes.
Scrutiny	The counting of votes is also known as the scrutiny.
Secret ballot	A vote made in secret.

Term	Description
Senate	The house of Parliament representing the states and territories. A total of 76 senators are elected – 12 from each state and two each from the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory – under a proportional representation system.
Silent elector	A voter whose address does not appear on the electoral roll for reasons of personal safety.
Turnout	The percentage of people who voted in the election (formal and informal votes as a percentage of eligible enrolled electors).
Vote	To choose a representative, or indicate a preference, in an election or referendum.
Writ	A document commanding an electoral officer to hold an election, containing dates for the close of rolls, the close of nominations, the election day and the last day for return of the writ.

List of requirements – non-corporate Commonwealth entities

PGPA Rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AD(g)	Letter of transmittal		
17AI	x	A copy of the letter of transmittal signed and dated by accountable authority on date final text approved, with statement that the report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Act and any enabling legislation that specifies additional requirements in relation to the annual report.	Mandatory
17AD(h)	Aids to access		
17AJ(a)	iii–viii	Table of contents.	Mandatory
17AJ(b)	150–158	Alphabetical index.	Mandatory
17AJ(c)	138–142	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory
17AJ(d)	143–148	List of requirements.	Mandatory
17AJ(e)	ii	Details of contact officer.	Mandatory
17AJ(f)	ii	Entity's website address.	Mandatory
17AJ(g)	ix	Electronic address of report.	Mandatory
17AD(a)	Review by accountable authority		
17AD(a)	2–4	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory
17AD(b)	Overview of the entity		
17AE(1)(a)(i)	6	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(ii)	6–7	A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	6	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	6	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(i)	12, 133	Name of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)	12, 133	Position of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)	133	Period as the accountable authority or member of the accountable authority within the reporting period.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(b)	N/A	An outline of the structure of the portfolio of the entity.	Portfolio departments – mandatory
17AE(2)	N/A	Where the outcomes and programs administered by the entity differ from any Portfolio Budget Statement, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement or other portfolio estimates statement that was prepared for the entity for the period, include details of variation and reasons for change.	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AD(c)	Report on the performance of the entity		
	<i>Annual performance statements</i>		
17AD(c)(i); 16F	15–48	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(c)(ii)	Report on financial performance		
17AF(1)(a)	74–104	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory
17AF(1)(b)	106	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity.	Mandatory
17AF(2)	80–84	If there may be significant changes in the financial results during or after the previous or current reporting period, information on those changes, including: the cause of any operating loss of the entity; how the entity has responded to the loss and the actions that have been taken in relation to the loss; and any matter or circumstances that it can reasonably be anticipated will have a significant impact on the entity's future operation or financial results.	If applicable, mandatory.
17AD(d)	Management and accountability		
	<i>Corporate governance</i>		
17AG(2)(a)	60	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud systems).	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(i)	60	A certification by accountable authority that fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans have been prepared.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(ii)	60	A certification by accountable authority that appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(iii)	60	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the entity.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(c)	60	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	N/A	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non-compliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy non-compliance.	If applicable, mandatory
	<i>Audit committee</i>		
17AG(2A)(a)	58	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(b)	108–109	The name of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AG(2A)(c)	108–109	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(d)	108–109	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity's audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(e)	108–109	The remuneration of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
<i>External scrutiny</i>			
17AG(3)	61–63	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory
17AG(3)(a)	61–62	Information on judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	If applicable, mandatory
17AG(3)(b)	62	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the Auditor-General (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.	If applicable, mandatory
17AG(3)(c)	N/A	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period.	If applicable, mandatory
<i>Management of human resources</i>			
17AG(4)(a)	63–67	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(aa)	63, 124–132	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following: (a) statistics on full-time employees (b) statistics on part-time employees (c) statistics on gender (d) statistics on staff location.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(b)	63, 124–132	Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis; including the following: (a) statistics on staffing classification level (b) statistics on full-time employees (c) statistics on part-time employees (d) statistics on gender (e) statistics on staff location (f) statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)	132	Information on any enterprise agreements, individual flexibility arrangements, Australian workplace agreements, common law contracts and determinations under subsection 24(1) of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> .	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(i)	132	Information on the number of SES and non-SES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	132	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(iii)	64–65, 134–135	A description of non-salary benefits provided to employees.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(i)	N/A (see page 64)	Information on the number of employees at each classification level who received performance pay.	If applicable, mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(ii)	N/A	Information on aggregate amounts of performance pay at each classification level.	If applicable, mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iii)	N/A	Information on the average amount of performance payment, and range of such payments, at each classification level.	If applicable, mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iv)	N/A	Information on aggregate amount of performance payments.	If applicable, mandatory
<i>Assets management</i>			
17AG(5)	N/A	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities.	If applicable, mandatory
<i>Purchasing</i>			
17AG(6)	69	An assessment of entity performance against the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.	Mandatory
<i>Reportable consultancy contracts</i>			
17AG(7)(a)	69–70	A summary statement detailing the number of new contracts engaging consultants entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all new consultancy contracts entered into during the period (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting year on the ongoing consultancy contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7)(b)	70	A statement that <i>“During [reporting period], [specified number] new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million].”</i>	Mandatory
17AG(7)(c)	69	A summary of the policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants and the main categories of purposes for which consultants were selected and engaged.	Mandatory
17AG(7)(d)	70	A statement that <i>“Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.”</i>	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
<i>Reportable non-consultancy contracts</i>			
17AG(7A)(a)	71	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable non-consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7A)(b)	71	A statement that <i>"Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."</i>	Mandatory
17AD(daa)	Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts		
17AGA	70–71	Additional information, in accordance with section 17AGA, about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts.	Mandatory
<i>Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses</i>			
17AG(8)	N/A (see page 69)	If an entity entered into a contract with a value of more than \$100,000 (inclusive of GST) and the contract did not provide the Auditor-General with access to the contractor's premises, the report must include the name of the contractor, purpose and value of the contract, and the reason why a clause allowing access was not included in the contract.	If applicable, mandatory
<i>Exempt contracts</i>			
17AG(9)	69	If an entity entered into a contract or there is a standing offer with a value greater than \$10,000 (inclusive of GST) which has been exempted from being published in AusTender because it would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act, the annual report must include a statement that the contract or standing offer has been exempted, and the value of the contract or standing offer, to the extent that doing so does not disclose the exempt matters.	If applicable, mandatory
<i>Small business</i>			
17AG(10)(a)	69	A statement that <i>"[Name of entity] supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website."</i>	Mandatory
17AG(10)(b)	69	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AG(10)(c)	N/A	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature – a statement that <i>“[Name of entity] recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury’s website.”</i>	If applicable, mandatory
<i>Financial statements</i>			
17AD(e)	74–104	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory
<i>Executive remuneration</i>			
17AD(da)	64–65, 132, 134–135	Information about executive remuneration in accordance with Subdivision C of Division 3A of Part 2–3 of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(f) Other mandatory information			
17AH(1)(a)(i)	122	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that <i>“During [reporting period], the [name of entity] conducted the following advertising campaigns: [name of advertising campaigns undertaken]. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [address of entity’s website] and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance’s website.”</i>	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(1)(a)(ii)	N/A	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(1)(b)	N/A	A statement that <i>“Information on grants awarded by [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity’s website].”</i>	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(1)(c)	38	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(d)	62	Website reference to where the entity’s Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(e)	N/A	Correction of material errors in previous annual report.	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(2)	68 106–107 108–115 116–121 121 123	Information required by other legislation.	Mandatory

SECTION 09

General index

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

General index

A

ABC, 33

Aboriginal Australians, *see* Indigenous Australians

accommodation, 27

accountability and management, 58–71

accountable authority, 59, 108

- statement presenting annual performance statements, 12

accuracy of electoral roll, 15

Administrative Appeals Tribunal decisions, 61

advertising and market research, 25, 35, 39, 122

AEC Command Centre, 26

AEC for Schools website, 42, 43

AEC-TV, 25

Aged Care Advisory Working Group, 28

annual financial disclosure returns, 18, 19, 123

annual performance statements, 12–49

Annual Roll Integrity Review, 15

Antarctica, 28

Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006, 120

assets and assets management, 67–8, 74

Aston by-election, 15, 23, 26, 32, 60, 61

- election funding claims, 123
- electoral communications complaints, 62, 136
- online staff training, 44
- voter services, 27, 28, 29
- writ, 30

Attorney-General's Department, 23, 46

Audit Committee, 58, 59, 108–9

audits, 58–9

- privacy management, 46

AusTender, 69

Austrade, 28

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Election of Staff-elected Director) Act 2012, 33

Australian Capital Territory, 17, 31

Australian citizenship certificates, 31

Australian Electoral Commission, *see* Electoral Commission

Australian Electoral Officers, 64, 133

Australian Federal Police, 23, 46, 60

Australian Human Rights Commission decisions, 62

Australian Information Commissioner decisions, 62

Australian National Audit Office (Auditor-General), 59, 69, 74

Australian Privacy Commissioner decisions, 62

Australian Public Service Commission, 38, 65

Australian Public Service Demand Reduction Initiative, 68

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, 23

Australian Signals Directorate, 23, 46

average staffing levels, 107

B

blind and low-vision voters, 28

Bougainville, 53

broadcasting, 35

- blackout period, 20

Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE), 54

business planning, *see* plans and planning

by-elections, 23, 26, 30

- see also* Aston by-election

C

Canada, 55

cardboard waste, 68

carers leave, 64

casual workforce, 63, 64

- see also* temporary election workforce

Check-up survey, 47

citizenship certificates, 31

classification of staff, 63, 127–30, 132

Comcare, 65, 66

Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking Program, 45

Command Centre, 26

Commission, *see* Electoral Commission

Commissioner, *see* Electoral Commissioner

Commonwealth Award for Excellence in Risk Management, 45

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Electoral Act), 6

- advertising and market research payments, 122
- consultants, engagement of, 69
- criminal offences, 60, 61
- electoral communications complaints, 62, 136
- electoral roll data and extracts, provision of, 14, 120
- funding and financial disclosure scheme, 19
- international engagement, 52
- judicial decisions, 61
- redistributions, 16
- staff engaged under, 64
- statutory appointments under, 133

Commonwealth Electoral Roll, *see* electoral roll

Commonwealth Ombudsman investigations, 62

community engagement, 36–9

community languages, 38

community mailbags, 21

compensation claims, 66

complaints, 49, 62, 136

compliance reviews, 18, 19

Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023 bill, 20

Construction Forestry Maritime Mining Energy Union, 61

consultants, 69–70

contracts, 69–70

corflutes, 61

corporate governance, 45, 58–61, 108–15

corporate plan, 60

- performance criteria, 10–11

count (election results), 29, 32

court decisions, 33, 61

Court of Disputed Returns, 30

COVID-19, 27–8, 63, 66

- industrial elections and ballots, 33

culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)

- background, electors from, 38

customer scrutiny, 63

cyber security, 25–6

D

Data Breach Resource Plan, 45

Deakin University, 29

Defending Democracy Unit, 24, 54

Department of Education, 27

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, 27

Department of Finance, 23

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 28, 52

- Special Visit Program (SVP), 53–4

Department of Health, 28

Department of Home Affairs, 23

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts, 23

Department of Social Services, 38

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 23

Deputy Electoral Commissioner, 6, 55, 64, 133, 134

Digital Technology branch, 27

- see also* information technology

Directed Level of Election Readiness, 11
Directed Level of Referendum Readiness, 22
disability, people with, 37–8
 blind and low-vision voters, 28
Disability Advisory Committee, 38
Disability Contact Officer role, 38
disinformation, 24–5, 54
divisions, *see* electoral divisions
Document Verification Service, 14
donations, disclosure of, 18–19, 20, 49, 123

E

early intervention program, 65, 66
Education and Engagement Committee, 115
education and training activities, 36, 39–43
 international engagement, 52, 54
 Referendums: It's been a while... campaign, 25
 see also staff learning and development
election readiness and Election Readiness Framework, 11, 23, 29
 asset management, 67
 lessons management, 23, 32–3
Election Ready Road Map, 11
election results, 29, 32
Election Systems Modernisation Program (Indigo), 47–8, 59, 115
election writs, 30
elections 2019, 61
elections 2022, 26, 29, 39
 funding and financial disclosure, 18, 19, 123
 health and safety incidents, 66
 lessons management, 23, 32–3
 misinformation/disinformation, 54, 55
 multiple voting, 60, 61
 non-voting, 61
 temporary election workforce, 37
Electoral Act, *see* *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*
Electoral and Referendum Regulation 2016, 14, 31
electoral and regulatory processes, 13–21
Electoral Commission
 members, 6, 64, 133
Electoral Commissioner, 6
 accountable authority, 59, 108; statement presenting annual performance statements, 12
 appointment, 133
 remuneration, 64, 134
 review of year, 2–4
 staffing powers, 64
electoral communications complaints, 62, 136
Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ), 37, 55, 65
electoral cycle, 11
electoral divisions (electorates), 16–17
 redistributions, 4, 16
electoral education, *see* education and training activities
electoral events, 22–34, 52–3
 judicial decisions, 61
 out-posted centre materials following, 68
 see also by-elections; elections 2022
electoral integrity, 13–21, 23–5
 electoral communications complaints, 62, 136
 funding and disclosure scheme, 18–19, 20, 49, 123
 identity, evidence of, 14, 21, 31
 industrial election and ballots, 33
Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce (EIAT), 23
Electoral Integrity Committee, 26, 59, 60, 114
electoral redistributions, 4, 16
electoral researchers, 120
Electoral Roll Access portal, 14
electoral roll and enrolments, 2–3, 13–15, 116–21
 Generic Voter Registration System, 53
 Indigenous Australians, 13–14, 20–1, 30–1, 37
 online enrolments, 30, 31–2
 people in prison, 38–9
 youth, 41
electronic certified lists, 28–9
email, 21
employee assistance program, 65

employees, *see* staff
energy efficiency, 68
Enhancing Indigenous Engagement New Policy Proposal, 14
Enterprise Agreement, 58, 64, 132
Enterprise Portfolio Management Office, 74
entity resource statement, 106
environmental performance and sustainable development, 68, 136
eReturns system, 18
ethical standards, 58
Event Workforce Optimisation Taskforce, 44
Executive Leadership Team, 6, 58, 59, 111
external audit, 59
external scrutiny, 61–3

F

Fadden by-election, 23, 26, 30
Fair Work Act 2009, 33
Fair Work Commission, 34
Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009, 33
Federal Court, 33, 61
Federal Direct Enrolment Update (FDEU) program, 21, 30, 38–9
federal elections, *see* elections
feedback, 31, 49
 NEEC visitors, 43
Fiji, 52
finance, 74–104, 106–7
 remuneration and salaries, 64–5, 108–9, 132, 134–5
 see also purchasing
Finance and Corporate Performance Branch, 74
financial disclosure, 18–19, 20, 49, 123
Financial Transactions Reports Act 1988, 120
First Assistant Commissioners, 6, 134
First Nations Australians, *see* Indigenous Australians
fleet vehicles, 68
flu vaccinations, 65

foreign influence/interference, 20, 23
formality rate, Aston by-election, 15
franchise, 15
fraud control, 60
freedom of information, 62
full-time staff, 124–30
functions and role, 6
funding and disclosure scheme, 18–19, 20, 49, 123

G

gender of staff, 124–9
Generic Voter Registration System, 53
governance, 45, 58–61, 108–15
government agencies provided with roll data or extracts, 14, 120
graduates, recruitment of, 64
greenhouse gas emissions, 136

H

health and safety, 65–6
homelessness, people experiencing, 38
House of Representatives
 Aston, 15
 electoral divisions, 16–17; redistributions, 4, 16
 roll data and extracts provided to members, 14, 117
 see also by-elections
human resources, *see* staff
Human Rights Commission decisions, 62

I

identity, evidence of, 14, 21, 31
Incident and Crisis Management Framework, 45
India, 54
Indigenous Australians, 34, 35–7
 enrolment, 13–14, 20–1, 30–1
 staff identifying as, 132
 youth, 38
 see also referendum
Indigenous Electoral Participation Program (IEPP), 36–7, 38

Indigo Program, 47–8

Indigo Steering Committee, 59, 115

individual flexibility arrangements, 64, 132

industrial elections and ballots, 33–4

influenza vaccinations, 65

information management, 45, 47–8

 Election Systems Modernisation Program (Indigo), 47–8, 59, 115

Information Publication Scheme, 62

information technology, 27

 security, 25–6

 software, 59

see also websites and online services

injury and illness claims, 66

Institute of Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation, 29

integrity of electoral and regulatory processes, **see** electoral integrity

internal audit, 58, 59

international engagement, 52–5

International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), 52

inventory management, 67–8

Investment, Change and People Strategy Committee, 59, 114

Investment Prioritisation, 74

Ireland, 53–4

J

judicial decisions, 33, 61

K

Kelly, Craig, 61

key activities, 10–11, 13–49

Kiribati, 53

L

labour hire engagements, 64

Laming, Andrew, 61

laptops, 29

learning and development, **see** education and training activities; staff learning and development

Learning and Professional Development Strategy 2020–2025, 67

leases, 27

legal decisions, 33, 61

legislation

 elector privacy, 46

 electoral roll data and extracts, 14

 employment terms and conditions under, 64

 environmental performance and sustainable development report, 68

 freedom of information, 62

 identity, evidence of, 31

 industrial elections and ballots, 33

 purchasing obligations, 69

 referendum, 20

 work health and safety obligations, 65

see also *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*; *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*

lessons management, 23, 32–3

liabilities, 74

local government elections, 23

location, employees by, 124–6, 131

M

McQuestin, Charles, 61

management and accountability, 58–71

management committees, 111–15

market research, 25, 39, 122

Marshall Islands, 53

materials management, 68

Medicare card, 21, 31

metadata, 45

Micronesia, 53

misinformation, 24–5, 54

mobile polling, 27–8

Modern Workplace Program, 27

modernisation program, 47–8, 59, 67, 115

motor vehicles, 68

multiple voting, 49, 60, 61

Museum of Australian Democracy, 39–40

N

National Archives of Australia, 45, 47
National Election Delivery Committee, 59, 112
National Electoral Education Centre (NEEC), 41–2, 52
National Indigenous Australians Agency, 34
National Operations and Readiness Committee, 59, 111
National Training and Education Unit, 39, 67
National Work Health and Safety Committee, 59, 115
New South Wales, 17, 23
 Indigenous enrolments, 31
 redistribution, 4, 16
New Zealand, 37, 53, 55
non-compliance in relation to finance law, 74
non-English speaking backgrounds, electors from, 38
non-ongoing employees, 63, 64, 125, 126, 128, 129–32
non-salary benefits, 64
non-voting, 49, 61
Northern Territory, 17
 Indigenous enrolments, 31, 37
notifiable incidents, 66
nursing homes, 28

O

office accommodation, 27
Office of National Intelligence, 23
Old Parliament House, 40, 41
O’Leary, Art, 53–4
Ombudsman investigations, 62
ongoing employees, 63, 64, 124, 126, 127, 129, 130–2
online services, *see* websites and online services
operating environment, 2, 24–5, 34
operating result, 74–5
Operational Leaders Program, 44, 67
Organisational Health, Performance and Risk Committee, 59, 111

organisational structure, 6–7
out-posted centres, 68
outcome and program, 6, 11, 106
overseas voters, 28

P

Pacific Island countries, 52–3
Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand Electoral Administrators (PIANZEA) Network, 53
Palau, 53
paper waste, 68
Papua New Guinea, 52
parliamentarians, roll data and extracts provided to, 14, 117–18
parliamentary committee engagement, 62
part-time staff, 124–30
People Committee, 59
performance cycles, 11
 see also election readiness
performance management and performance pay, 64–5
performance report, 10–49
personal information, *see* privacy
personal (carers) leave, 64
physical security, 26–7, 45
plans and planning, 45, 60, 110
 business continuity, 59
 fraud control, 60
 workforce, 65
 see also election readiness
political parties
 financial disclosure, 18–19, 49
 registration, 18, 19
 roll data and extracts provided to, 14, 119
polling locations, 32
 cardboard waste, 68
 mobile polling, 27–8
Portfolio Budget Statements, 10–11
postal voting, 27
 overseas voters, 28
 referendum, 20

- prescribed organisations provided with roll data or extracts, 120–1
 - prison, people in, 38–9
 - privacy, 45, 46, 62
 - Privacy Management Plan, 45
 - private sector organisations entitled to receive roll information, 120–1
 - procurement, *see* purchasing
 - program and outcome, 6, 11, 107
 - promotions of staff, 64
 - property management, 27
 - prosecutions, 49, 61
 - protective security, 25–7, 45
 - Protective Security Policy Framework, 45
 - psychological injuries, 66
 - public awareness activities, 24–5, 35–43, 122
 - Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), 6, 58, 60, 69
 - non-compliance in relation to finance law, 74
 - performance cycle, 11
 - statement by Electoral Commissioner, 12
 - Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*, 60
 - Public Service Act 1999*, 64
 - section 24 employment arrangements, 64, 65, 132
 - purchasing, 69–71
 - advertising and market research, 122
 - purpose, 6
 - performance criteria, 10–11
- Q**
- Queensland, 17
 - Fadden by-election, 23, 26, 30
 - Indigenous enrolments, 31
 - questions on notice, responses to, 62
- R**
- radio, 35
 - recruitment, 64
 - see also* temporary election workforce
 - recycling, 68
 - redistributions, 4, 16
 - referendum, 3, 11, 20–1, 22
 - community engagement, 37
 - disinformation register, 25
 - national information and advertising campaign, 35–6
 - staff learning and development programs, 67
 - student education sessions, 42
 - supply of material requirements, 68
 - temporary warehouses leased, 27
 - temporary workforce engagements, 64
 - voter services, 20, 28
 - Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*, 20
 - Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022, 62
 - Referendum Booklet, 36
 - Referendum Coordination (Steering) Committee, 59, 113
 - Referendum Ready Road Map, 22, 23
 - Referendums: It's been a while...* campaign, 25
 - Register of Political Parties, 18, 19
 - regulatory function, 18–19, 48–9
 - rehabilitation management, 65
 - remote communities, 20, 28
 - enrolment, 21
 - mobile polling, 20
 - Remote Voter Services Taskforce, 28
 - remuneration and salaries, 64–5, 108–9, 132, 134–5
 - Republic of the Marshall Islands, 53
 - reputation management, 24–5
 - residential facilities, 28
 - resources, 106–7
 - see also* finance; staff
 - right to vote (franchise), 15
 - risk management, 45, 49, 59
 - role and functions, 6

S

safety, 65–6

salaries and remuneration, 64–5, 108–9, 132, 134–5

satisfaction of NEEC visitors, 43

school electoral education programs, 39, 41–2

scrutineers, 20

section 24 employment arrangements, 64, 65, 132

security, 25–7, 45

senators, roll data and extracts provided to, 14, 117–18

senior executive service (SES) employees, 65, 132, 135

service charter, 63

Silent Elector Processing Cell, 46

small business support, 69

social media, 25, 35

software, 59

Solomon Islands, 52–3

South Australia, 17, 23

- Indigenous enrolments, 31

staff, 44–7, 63–4, 124–35

- average staffing levels, 107
- see also** temporary election workforce

staff learning and development, 44, 67

- cyber security awareness, 25–6
- fraud awareness, 60
- privacy, 45
- risk management, 59

stakeholder engagement, 35–43

state elections, 23

statutory office holders and appointments, 63, 64, 133

Stop and consider campaign, 25

submissions to parliamentary committees, 62

supply chain management, 67

sustainable development, 68, 136

T

Tasmania, 17, 31

teachers, 42

- professional learning participants, 43

telephone voting, 28, 45

television, 35

temporary election workforce (TEW), 64, 65

- Indigenous, 37
- training, 44

tenders, **see** purchasing

timeliness

- by-election writs, 30
- disclosure returns, 19
- results, 29; Aston by-election, 32

Tokelau, 53

Tonga, 53

Torres Strait Islanders, **see** Indigenous Australians

training, **see** education and training activities

translated materials, 38

Transparency Register, 18, 19

tribunal decisions, 61

turnout rate, Aston by-election, 15

U

United Kingdom, 55

V

vaccinations, 65

vehicles, 68

Victoria, 4, 17, 23

- Indigenous enrolments, 31
- see also** Aston by-election

videos, 25

vision, 6

vision impairment, voters with, 28

visitors to National Electoral Education Centre, 41–2

visitors to *Writs and Referendums* exhibition, 40

Voice referendum, **see** referendum

voter integrity, 60–1
voter services, 27–9
voter turnout rate, Aston by-election, 15

W

warehouses, 27
waste management, 68
websites and online services, 24, 25–6
 Aston by-election postal vote applications, 27
 Aston by-election results, 32
 AusTender, 69
 electoral education, 42, 43
 electronic certified lists, 28–9
 enrolment, 30, 31–2
 political party registrations and financial disclosure, 18
 referendum information and resources, 25, 35–6
 roll data and extracts, 14
Western Australia, 4, 17
 Indigenous enrolments, 31, 37
work health and safety, 65–6
workforce, *see* staff
workforce planning, 65
workstation assessments, 66
Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council, 34
writ-to-writ period, health and safety incidents during, 66
writs, 30
Writs to Referendums public exhibition, 39–40

Y

youth, 20, 38
 enrolment rate, 41
YouTube, 25