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**Subject:** Parliamentary Review - Friday 28 May 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

**Parliamentary Review - Friday 28 May 2021****SUMMARY**

The **AEC appeared** before the Finance and Public Administration Committee for [Estimates](#) last night. Watch it back on [ParlWatch](#) (from 18:03).

[Hansard](#) will be released in the coming days, and **questions on notice** assigned to drafting areas shortly after. Questions went to –

**Senator Tim Ayres (NSW, ALP)**

- *Australian* article on Clive Palmer donations to Craig Kelly's legal action against Facebook, inc. interaction with state FAD laws **\*QoN\***
- Authorisations – current investigations (Andrew Laming MP)
- Compliance program
- Election planning and COVID-19 contingency planning
- # of overseas votes returned after the cut-off **\*QoN\***
- Lease for surge premises
- Enterprise Victoria – Associated entity status
- Contracts for temporary personnel services
- Value of AEC labour hire contracts **\*QoN\***

**Senator Matt O'Sullivan (WA, Lib)**

- Pre-poll numbers and implications for the next election

**Senator Malcolm Roberts (Qld, PHON)**

- EasyCount Software **\*QON\***
  - Development, inc. staffing levels and qualifications, cost and time
  - NATA verification process
- Senate scanning solution – review and testing
- PPVCs and technology **\*QON\***
  - Integrity measures for electronic devices
- How-to-vote material in polling booths

There will be a Cross Portfolio Estimates hearing on **Indigenous matters** today. The National Indigenous Australians Agency is scheduled to appear before the

	<p>Finance and Public Administration Committee from 11:15am-2:00pm. Follow on <a href="#">ParlWatch</a>.</p> <p>Yesterday, Shadow Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus (Isaacs, Vic, ALP) <a href="#">spoke on political donations</a>, referencing donations by <b>Canstruct</b> executives to the Liberal National Party.</p> <p>The <a href="#">final report</a> of JSCem's review of the <b>FAD Reform Act</b> was also presented. The report makes <b>no recommendations</b>, observing that the legislation is working effectively. JSCem Member James Stevens (Sturt SA, LP) <a href="#">said</a>:</p> <p><i>"It is clear from the evidence provided to this inquiry that, after an initial transition period, <b>the act in its current form is working appropriately</b> and not hindering the current activities of charitable based organisations. It is very positive that many members of the sector report that their <b>organisations have gained familiarity with the definitions</b> and find them workable. The committee notes there are a variety of <b>conflicting views about possible amendments</b>, but this reflects diverse interest from observers of the political system and is not suggestive of fundamental structural problems."</i> – Stevens</p>
House of Representatives	<p>Chamber documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Votes and Proceedings</a> – Thursday 27 May 2021</li> <li>• <a href="#">Hansard</a> – Thursday 27 May 2021</li> </ul>
Senate	<p>Estimates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Consolidated program</a></li> <li>• AEC appearance: <a href="#">Webcast</a> (from 16:03)   Hansard (Not yet published)</li> </ul>
JSCem	<p>Current inquiries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Future conduct of elections operating during times of emergency situations</a></li> </ul> <p>Completed inquiries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Review of the FAD Reform Act – Final report</a></li> </ul>

**Jake Farquharson and Bronwen Williamson**

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