

# Australian Electoral Commission Meeting No. 274

**Date:** Wednesday 6 October 2021 **Time:** 4:00pm **Location:** Microsoft Teams

### Attendees:

The Hon. Justice Susan Kenny AM (Chair);  
Mr Tom Rogers (Electoral Commissioner);  
Dr David Gruen (Australian Statistician)  
Mr Anders Holmberg (Chief Methodology)

**Action Officer:** section 47F (Commission Secretariat)

### Agenda

#### Item

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#### 1. Welcome

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#### 2. For decision: Membership testing process and approach

**Paper** – *Party registration - ABS advice for membership testing lists for 'at least 1,500 members'*

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#### 3. For decision: Manner and timing of non-parliamentary political party register review

**Paper** – *Political Party Registration - Manner and timing of Register review*

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#### 4. Closing

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### Agenda item 1: Welcome and Commissioner's introduction

The Chair opened the meeting at 4:00pm. The meeting commenced with the three-person Australian Electoral Commission (the Commission) members; the Hon. Justice Susan Kenny, Mr Tom Rogers, and Dr David Gruen, and Mr Anders Homberg, Chief Methodologist of the Australian Bureau Statistics (ABS), as a guest for Item 2.

Mr Rogers provided an update to the Commission on administrative matters concerning the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

## Agenda item 2: For decision: Membership testing process and approach

In response to recent amendments to the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act) by the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Party Registration Integrity) Act 2021* (the Party Registration Act), the Commission discussed proposed sample sizes for registered non-Parliamentary political party membership list testing as outlined in the paper entitled 'Party registration – ABS advice for membership testing lists for 'at least 1,500 members''.

The proposed methodology, which examined sample sizes derived from data provided by the ABS, is based on the current method with updated sample sizes.

The Commission endorsed the methodology of the proposed approach but requested additional statistical advice from the ABS regarding the percentage chances of incorrectly rejecting or accepting membership lists.

### **Commission decision:**

- **Agree that** ABS staff will recalibrate the parameters in the data provided to the Commission to ensure a reasonable (low) probability of rejecting a valid list or accepting an invalid list. The Commission will examine the re-worked parameters out-of-session.
- **Agree that** the Commission endorses the current general approach, noting that the methodology is an extension of the existing methodology.

## Agenda item 3: For decision: Manner and timing of non-parliamentary political party register review

In response to the recent amendments to the Electoral Act by the Party Registration Act, the Commission examined administrative processes for the AEC to ensure registered non-Parliamentary parties meet new membership eligibility requirements within the three-month period provided by the Party Registration Act. The Commission endorsed a review of the registered non-Parliamentary parties under section 138A of the Electoral Act, with subsequent action to be taken under section s137 of the Electoral Act if appropriate.

### **Decision:**

- **Agree that** the Commission will, for the purpose of reviewing the Register, provide a notice under s 138A of the Electoral Act to each registered non-Parliamentary party to request specified information to establish that the party meets the 1,500 membership eligibility requirement as at 2 December 2021.

## Agenda item 4: Closing

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 5:10pm.