

Ian Herps

From: Ian Herps
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2016 4:33 PM
To: Doug Orr
Cc: James Carroll
Subject: FW: Forensic Hospital [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Good afternoon, Doug

Re: Voting entitlements for residents of the Forensic Hospital

Last week I received a call from Ms Lot Keijer, a Senior Social Worker at the Forensic Hospital in Malabar. The Forensic Hospital is part of the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network and is separate from NSW Corrective Services.

Ms Keijer had been given my name and contact details by Ms Dannielle Perkes, who is the Allied Health Manager at the hospital. Ms Perkes had contacted the Haymarket office during the roll close period for the NSW State Election last year and was put through to me. I assisted Ms Perkes with information on how to enrol hospital residents in time for the roll close for that election.

Ms Keijer advised that the hospital's preference was for a mobile visit to be arranged for this year's Federal Election over postal voting as the hospital's management was not keen on having staff providing their details on electoral forms. Ms Keijer also stated that the residents in question were able to understand the nature and significance of voting and that none were under sentence. I advised Ms Keijer that any request for a mobile visit would need to be in writing and that I would get back to her.

A roll search has revealed the following information:

There are currently 71 electors enrolled for the Forensic Hospital, 2 of which appear to be staff. Of the 71, 14 are State-only electors and 4 are 'Dual' electors. 37 electors are current GPVs (36 X GOs – patients in hospital that is not a polling place and 1 X GN – living at home and unable to travel to polling place due to health).

There are 6 electors that appear on the most recent data received from NSW Corrective Services as being under sentence.

I have left a phone message for Ms Keijer to call me regarding the possibility of GPV provisions being utilised rather than mobile polling, given the number of residents that are already GPVs (I am awaiting a return call). If mobile polling was to be conducted, many of the resident's votes would not count as they are not enrolled (see below). Even if mobile polling was carried out, they would still need to complete an enrolment form that would require the details of someone attesting to their enrolment. For the 2015 State Election, Ms Perkes signed the enrolment forms required, but instead of writing her residential address, marking the application with her signature stamp showing her work address. RMB approved this as we could identify Ms Perkes as an enrolled elector from the details provided.

GPV applications do not require witnesses/attestors, while postal vote certificates require a signature from an attestor and their 'qualification' e.g. 'elector' (no printed name or address details required).

The 18 electors that are State-only or 'dual' electors need to complete an enrolment form. 34 electors will need to register as GPVs if mobile polling is not conducted at the hospital.

At this stage, I am unaware of the total number of residents at the Forensic Hospital.

Regards

Ian

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