

LS5796 Released Document No. 96

From: Julie Aspland
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 10:21 AM
To: craig.rosenthal@dcs.qld.gov.au
Cc: Gordon Marshall <Gordon.Marshall@aec.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Prisoner Voting - Federal Elections [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Good afternoon Craig

Thank you for your time on Friday afternoon with Gordon and I to discuss the arrangements that are in place to ensure eligible prisoners are aware of their entitlement and to confirm arrangements for postal voting for those eligible persons. We appreciate the commitment that DCS has provided and look forward to continuing to provide enrolment and voting services to the prisoner community in the future.

I am able to confirm that If eligible prisoners update their details and are registered as general postal voters (GPV), they will be automatically sent ballot papers as soon as practicable after the declaration of nominations for federal elections which is on Friday, June 10 2016. While we appreciate your advice that some prisoners may duplicate their applications for general postal voter status for various reasons, this is an administrative reality that the AEC deals with from many sections of the community.

If an application for GPV status is received for a person who is found to not be on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll, we would attempt to make contact via telephone however if this is not possible a letter is sent. Please note that in order for a person to be eligible to vote in the 2016 federal election, their enrolment needs to be updated prior to the Close of Rolls at 8pm on May 23 2016.

I also confirm that applications for general postal vote status must be received by 6pm on 29 June 2016, and that the link to the Postal Vote Application Form in your email is correct.

Ballot papers must be completed and posted back to the AEC on or before election day, and must be received by the AEC within 13 days after election day. As part of the postal vote process, the ballot papers are contained within a declaration envelope which is signed, witnessed and dated. I would recommend that they are returned to the AEC at the earliest possible opportunity following polling day due to the time constraints and the reliance upon postal services.

As discussed, the AEC requires reports under Section 209(2) of the CEA within four days of the Close of Rolls which is 8pm on May 23, 2016. Could you please confirm in writing that DCS will be able to provide the reports within that time frame?

Thanks again for your ongoing assistance and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Julie

Julie Aspland | Operations Manager
Australian Electoral Commission
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From: Gordon Marshall
Sent: Thursday, 12 May 2016 2:33 PM
To: ROSENTHAL, Craig <Craig.Rosenthal@dcs.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Julie Aspland <Julie.Aspland@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Prisoner Voting - Federal Elections [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Hi Craig,

We have received your email and will respond shortly.

Cheers
Gordon

Gordon Marshall | Operations Manager
State Management Team | QLD State Office
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (07) 3834 3416 | M: 7 [REDACTED]



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From: ROSENTHAL, Craig [<mailto:Craig.Rosenthal@dcs.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 12 May 2016 12:46 PM
To: Gordon Marshall <Gordon.Marshall@aec.gov.au>
Subject: Prisoner Voting - Federal Elections

Good morning Gordon

Following on from our earlier conversations regarding encouraging prisoners to enrol or update their current enrolment - Statewide Operations has provided advice to Centres to advise prisoners through the Prisoner Advisory Committees and other local arrangements concerning this matter. The "Enrol to vote or update your details as a prisoner in Queensland" forms have been made available to prisoners.

I can confirm that QCS will continue to facilitate the postal votes for eligible prisoners.

I note from the AEC website that these enrolment forms must be received by the AEC no later than 8 pm Monday 23 May 2016.

Can you please confirm that if eligible prisoners update their details and nominate as a general postal voter (section 6 of the form) that they will be automatically sent their ballot papers for the federal election. Can you also provide advice of the turnaround time for this. The issue that we have, is that some prisoners who may have updated their enrolment details as a general postal voter, may also still make application for a postal vote. We would like to try to minimise the risk of prisoners doubling up in that regard.

I also note from the AEC website that an application for a postal vote must be received by the AEC no later than 6pm on Wednesday 29 June 2016.

Centres have been providing advice to prisoners and we have developed posters to further inform prisoners of their responsibility to update their details on the electoral role. We will continue to make the form "Enrol to vote or update your details as a prisoner in Queensland" available to prisoners up to Monday 23 May.

Following that time we have separate posters developed which advise eligible prisoners of their requirement to vote. We will make the Postal Vote Application Form available to prisoners up to 29 June 2016.

Can I also confirm that the form <http://www.aec.gov.au/election/pva/files/pva-180316.pdf> is the correct "Postal Vote Application Form" for prisoners to complete, if they have not nominated as a general postal voter and updated their details.

We will provide advice to prisoners about the requirements to vote, prior to or on the day of the election and ensure that ballot papers completed by eligible prisoners are returned as soon as possible and no later than 6pm Friday 15 July 2016.

Look forward to your advice.

Regards

Craig



Craig Rosenthal

Manager, Systems Assurance and Compliance | Custodial Operations | Statewide Operations

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6 pm 15 July

From: Gordon Marshall [<mailto:Gordon.Marshall@aec.gov.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 April 2016 11:55 AM
To: ROSENTHAL, Craig
Subject: RE: Prisoner Voting - Federal Elections [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Hi Craig,

Just following up our positive discussions last week regarding collaboration between the AEC and QCS for the FE 2106.

Are you able to provide written confirmation of our discussions especially regarding our agreement to continue to not mobile poll in prisons and the liaison and co-ordination role we will work together on from here on to inform prisoners and provide up to date time lines for the election once known.

Thanks
Gordon

Gordon Marshall | Operations Manager
State Management Team | QLD State Office
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (07) 3834 3416 | M: 7[REDACTED]



UNOFFICIAL

From: ROSENTHAL, Craig [<mailto:Craig.Rosenthal@dcs.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2016 11:29 AM
To: Gordon Marshall <Gordon.Marshall@aec.gov.au>
Subject: Prisoner Voting - Federal Elections

Good morning Gordon

QCS has received the correspondence from Mr Thomas Ryan, Australian Electoral Officer regarding the upcoming federal elections.

The Acting Commissioner, Kerrith McDermott has asked that I liaise with your office in regard to prisoner voting.

In regard to Thomas' letter, I note that there is reference made to s.109 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act*, however that provision only allows QCS to provide to the AEC, the names, addresses, occupations and sexes of all persons who began servicing a sentence of imprisonment of 3 years or longer in the State; and the names addresses, occupations and sexes of all persons who ceased to serve a sentence of imprisonment of 3 years or longer in the State.

Unfortunately the legislation does not allow us to provide to you a list of prisoners who are eligible to vote ie. prisoners who are currently serving a period of less than 3 years or who are on remand.

During the recent local elections and state referendum, I sought an opinion from the Department of Justice and Attorney General's legal unit, and they advised that we were not authorised to provide information to the Electoral Commission Queensland regarding those prisoners who were eligible to vote (ie. in that case a list of remand prisoners).

This would have allowed us to provide a current list of eligible prisoners to the QEC, who had then agreed to forward postal votes directly to the prisoner. This would have significantly reduced the workload for both the QEC and QCS. Unfortunately, this resulted in a manual process, which was adopted by Centres to ensure that eligible prisoners completed the form to request a postal.

I look forward discussing arrangements for the forthcoming elections so that we can ensure that there is a consistent process applied across all corrective services facilities in Queensland.

Please let me know a convenient time to discuss further.

regards

Craig



Craig Rosenthal

Manager, Systems Assurance and Compliance | Custodial Operations | Statewide Operations

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- 5 Personal Information (facsimile of manuscript initialling) redacted.
- 6 Personal Information (Individual's address) redacted.
- 7 Personal Information (individual's telephone number) redacted.
- 8 Personal Information (individual's opinion) redacted.
- 9 Personal Information (opinion about individual) redacted.
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- 15 Business information (Billing Account details) redacted.
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