

Response to question on notice

Mr Bruce Maguire, Vision Australia

The CHAIR: I will take my prerogative as Chair to ask one last question and ask if you could all take on notice this one: We've just been through the ACT and the Queensland elections and by-elections in New South Wales. As national organisations, if you become aware of practices in any of those elections that you think would be particularly beneficial in New South Wales, can you please pass those on to the Committee?

“In the Queensland election telephone-assisted voting was provided for people who are blind or have low vision. Registration was available for this service for a period of time on polling day itself, in addition to pre-poll registration. Voting was also available on polling day via the telephone-assisted voting service. Being able to register and vote on polling day offers a greater degree of amenity and convenience, as well as an experience that is closer to that of the rest of the community.

“It is our understanding that in addition to human-assisted telephone voting, eligible voters in the ACT election were also able to cast their vote using the keypad on their phone (automated telephone keypad voting). This was also one of the suite of options available in the discontinued iVote platform, and it provides a greater degree of independence and secrecy for voters who are blind or have low vision.”