

Australian Electoral Commission

# ANNUAL REPORT

2015–16

## Letter of transmittal

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ISSN: 0814-4508

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Acknowledgements: This report reflects the work of many contributors. Special thanks to:

- Annual Report Coordinator: Nigel Harding
- Printer: Canprint Communications Pty Ltd
- Editor/Indexer: Wordwallah

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**Electoral Commissioner**

Senator the Hon. Scott Ryan  
Special Minister of State  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for the year ending 30 June 2016.

The report has been prepared for the purposes of:

- (i) section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*; and
- (ii) section 17 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

As required by section 10 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*, I also certify that I am satisfied that the AEC:

- has prepared fraud risk assessments and a fraud control plan
- has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures and processes that meet the specific needs of the AEC
- has taken all reasonable measures to deal with fraud relating to the AEC.

Yours sincerely  
**SIGNED**

Tom Rogers  
4 October 2016

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## Contents

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iii	Letter of transmittal
vii	About this report
<b>1</b>	<b>1 Year in review</b>
2	Commissioner's review
<b>7</b>	<b>2 About the AEC</b>
8	What is the AEC?
8	Values and principles
8	Outcome and programs
9	Organisational structure and leadership
13	Guiding legislation
<b>15</b>	<b>3 Performance reporting</b>
16	Performance against agency directions
23	Performance against Regulator Performance Framework
23	Additional performance information
<b>63</b>	<b>4 Managing the AEC</b>
64	Governance, ethics and staff consultation
68	Strategic and business planning
72	Risk management and business continuity
73	Managing resources, assets and procurement
90	Compliance
92	External scrutiny
<b>101</b>	<b>5 Financial reporting</b>
102	Financial performance summary
103	List of financial statements
104	Certification
107	Primary Financial Statements
114	Overview
116	Notes to the Financial Statements
<b>139</b>	<b>Appendixes</b>
140	Appendix A: Resources
142	Appendix B: Electoral Roll information
145	Appendix C: Roll information for registered political parties
147	Appendix D: Other recipients of roll information
149	Appendix E: Advertising and market research
150	Appendix F: AEC regular staff
156	Appendix G: Industrial and commercial elections
157	Appendix H: List of requirements for annual report
<b>163</b>	<b>Reader guides</b>
164	Abbreviations and acronyms
166	Glossary
169	Index

## Figures

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11	Figure 1: Australia's 150 electoral divisions
12	Figure 2: Organisation chart and leadership structure as at 30 June 2016
34	Figure 3: Enrolment rate and enrolled population 24 November 2007 to 30 June 2016
48	Figure 4: Torres Strait Regional Authority electoral wards 2016
75	Figure 5: The regular workforce by gender 2013–14 to 2015–16
76	Figure 6: The regular workforce by age group as at 30 June 2016
76	Figure 7: AEC regular workforce by diversity 2012–13 to 2015–16

## Tables

13	Table 1: Legislative framework
16	Table 2: Mapping of PBS Performance Criteria for 2015–16 to Corporate Plan Agency Directions (Purposes) 2015–19
23	Table 3: AEC Performance against Regulator Performance Framework, 2015–16
25	Table 4: Canning by-election timeline
25	Table 5: Canning by-election – first preferences by vote type
25	Table 6: North Sydney by-election timeline
25	Table 7: North Sydney by-election – first preferences by vote type
31	Table 8: 2016 federal election timeline
31	Table 9: House of Representatives nominations by state and territory
31	Table 10: Senate nominations by state and territory
34	Table 11: 2015 SAF average national results against performance measures
39	Table 12: Summary of electoral redistributions concluded in 2015–16
43	Table 13: Party-registration-related applications and requests, 2015–16
45	Table 14: Financial disclosure returns lodged and published in previous financial years
46	Table 15: 2015 Canning by-election payment to political parties and candidates
46	Table 16: 2015 North Sydney by-election payment to political parties and candidates
70	Table 17: Business planning documents
74	Table 18: Salary bands for statutory appointees and senior executive staff effective 30 June 2016
77	Table 19: AEC regular workforce profile as at 30 June 2016
77	Table 20: Intermittent or irregular employees by classification
82	Table 21: Work health and safety summary, 2015–16
82	Table 22: New claims for compensable and non-compensable injuries
85	Table 23: Expenditure on consultancy contracts, 2013–14 to 2015–16
87	Table 24: Legislative compliance and reporting for environmental management
88	Table 25: AEC sustainable procurement requirements
88	Table 26: National office environmental ratings
89	Table 27: Energy consumption considerations across the network
89	Table 28: Water consumption considerations across the network
93	Table 29: Guiding legislation for AEC administrative decisions
99	Table 30: Parliamentary inquiries and AEC involvement 2015–16
140	Table 31: Agency Resource Statement 2015–16
141	Table 32: Expenses and resources for Outcome 1
141	Table 33: Average staffing levels 2013–14 to 2015–16
142	Table 34: Recipients of electoral roll extracts July 2015 – June 2016
145	Table 35: Parties provided with electoral roll extracts, July 2015 – June 2016
147	Table 36: Government departments and agencies that received electoral extracts, July 2015 – June 2016
148	Table 37: Medical and electoral researchers provided with electoral roll extracts July 2015 – June 2016
148	Table 38: Provision of electoral roll information to organisations verifying identity for financial purposes July 2015 – June 2016
149	Table 39: Advertising and media placement payments, \$12 700 or more
150	Table 40: APS ongoing staff (including staff on higher duties arrangements) demographics as at 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2016
153	Table 41: APS non-ongoing staff (including staff on higher duties arrangements) demographics as at 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2016
155	Table 42: Staff employed under the Electoral Act by demographics as at 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2016
156	Table 43: AEC industrial and commercial elections program 2015–16

## About this report

This report outlines the performance of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for the financial year ending 30 June 2016. It informs all Australians – including Members of Parliament, political parties, interest groups, candidates, electoral authorities, government departments and agencies, students, teachers and the media – about AEC activities and services. It also describes the AEC's performance against its agency directions as set out in the AEC Corporate Plan for 2015–19, with reference to updated 2015–16 deliverables specified in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2016–17.

The report accords with the requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2016* for annual reports.

There are five chapters:

- 1. Year in review** – Summary of key developments and trends by the Electoral Commissioner.
- 2. About the AEC** – Role, values and principles, outcome and programs structure, organisational structure and leadership, guiding legislation.
- 3. Performance reporting** – Reports against the five agency directions specified in the 2015–19 AEC Corporate Plan with reference to the Portfolio Budget Statements, plus additional information on achievements to complete the AEC performance story.
- 4. Managing the AEC** – Governance arrangements, strategic and business planning, risk management, managing resources and assets, compliance, and external scrutiny.
- 5. Financial reporting** – Financial performance for 2015–16, including audited financial statements.

These chapters are supported by:

- appendixes and reader guides at the end of the report
- 'spotlight' sections throughout the report highlighting particular developments, activities and outcomes.

## Tools to assist readers

This publication has a table of contents, lists of figures and tables, an alphabetical index, a list of requirements, cross references, an abbreviations and acronyms section, and a glossary.

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