

## Arrangements for future Senate Elections

### Summary

The purpose of this paper is to revisit the arrangements for publishing Senate voting data.

Following a Freedom of Information request for the release of election data, AGC and Senate discussed whether the results of the 2017 election should be made public. Those nominating themselves for election to Senate would need to agree to data on the outcome of the election being published. The current position is that anonymised data relating to the outcome of Senate elections is released to candidates and to Senate; and that candidates are provided with data relating to the number of votes cast in their favour on request.

Although there was a strong case for transparency in the conduct of all elections there was some opposition to changing the current position. There was concern that publication may deter some potential candidates from standing, and in particular, it was suggested that full publication of the results might result in fewer women nominating themselves for election, resulting in a less diverse membership of Senate.

On balance, Senate agreed at their May 2017 meeting that it would be helpful to retain the current arrangements for the next round of Senate elections but to consider the issue afresh before the next round of elections.

Senate is therefore asked to consider whether it would like to change the current arrangements for publication of election data. It is anticipated that the next round of Senate elections will take place in May 2018.

One action required.

### Recommended action

AGC is asked to **consider** the arrangements for publishing Senate election voting data.

**Publication: Open**