

Question on Notice

No. 472

Asked on 2 April 2019

MS A LEAHY ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise which industrial organisations within her jurisdiction utilise first past the post voting or optional preferential voting systems to elect officers, all reported separately?

ANSWER:

Both employee and employer organisations registered and operating in Queensland's industrial relations jurisdiction under the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (IR Act) must have 'complying rules' on a range of prescribed matters, including balloting, methods of voting and deciding the result of the ballot.

The Office of Industrial Relations does not have records on the voting methods of those industrial organisations that conduct their elections in the state jurisdiction. The IR Act requires the Industrial Registrar to keep a register of organisations and a copy of each organisation's rules and these can be viewed on request to the Industrial Registrar. Under the IR Act, the Queensland Electoral Commission conducts elections for employee and employer organisations registered in Queensland.

However, not all state-registered industrial organisations conduct their elections in the state jurisdiction. Industrial organisations in Queensland can be registered in both state and federal jurisdictions, and where a state-registered organisation has a federally-registered counterpart body, they may apply to the Industrial Registrar for an exemption from holding an election for a state office if the federally-registered body has held an election for an office under the Commonwealth *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*. Federally-registered organisation rules are published on www.fwc.gov.au.

The Australian Electoral Commission conducts union elections in the federal jurisdiction.