

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

**SEVENTH SUBMISSION TO THE JOINT STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS' INQUIRY
INTO THE 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION AND
MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

**Responses to issues raised by JSCEM at Perth and
Sydney public hearings and additional requests for
information from the JSCEM**

9 September 2005

SEVENTH SUBMISSION TO THE JSCEM 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION INQUIRY

Introduction

This is the seventh submission by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' (JSCEM) inquiry into the conduct of the 2004 federal election.

This submission provides responses to requests for information, documentation and statistics that were either taken on notice or requested of AEC staff during the Perth and Sydney hearings of the current inquiry, or as subsequent requests through the JSCEM secretariat. The submission also provides some additional information in relation to issues raised in public hearings.

The table of contents (below) sets out the relevant issues raised, identified by subject matter and, where relevant, the page number of the relevant Hansard transcript.

Correction

On page 10 of the AEC's sixth submission, in the fourth paragraph, there is a typographical error. The sentence that begins '*The AEC notes that the AEC Electoral Commission ...*' should read '*The AEC notes that the ACT Electoral Commission...*'

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1. PERTH HEARING – WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST

Page 57: HTV cards 2001

The Committee requested that the AEC provide all how to vote (HTV) cards from the 2001 election for the division of Brand.

Response:

The AEC has located copies of HTV cards for the Division of Brand for the 2001 federal election produced by liberals for forests, the Labor party, the Liberal party and the Australian Democrats. The AEC has not been able to locate any further samples of HTV cards for the Division of Brand. Copies of the HTV cards located are included at Attachment A.

Page 58: Dual polling places

The Committee requested that the Australian Electoral Officer (AEO) for Western Australia provide information on the factors that trigger the use of dual polling booths and the number of dual polling booths in Western Australia, and provide a list of those booths.

Response:

An overview of the national policy for the creation of dual polling places was outlined in the AEC's second submission to the current inquiry (page 29, paragraph 1). This policy is detailed in the Election Procedures Manual (Divisional Office) EPM (DO) and followed by Western Australian Divisional Returning Officers (WA DROs) when determining appropriate polling places for each election.

Section 1.2 of EPM (DO) states:

Where the circumstances permit, a DRO can arrange to issue ordinary votes to electors from a polling place in an adjoining division in the same State/Territory. For the creation of a dual polling place, the requirement is that the polling place caters for sufficient electors from an adjoining division to justify three or more declaration vote issuing points (>241 VOTES). The building must lend itself to the creation of completely separate areas for voting, allowing no scope for overlap or the inadvertent placing of ballot papers in the wrong ballot box. Polling place names should be unique and that result is achieved by giving the same location name to each pair of dual polling places and adding to each the relevant division's name in brackets, (eg Upper Mt Gravatt (Fadden) and Upper Mt Gravatt (Moreton)).

A WA DRO must seek approval from the AEO WA to appoint a dual polling place. As part of this process, the DRO notifies the relevant Member of Parliament (MP) for the division¹ of the proposal to establish a dual polling place, and requests the MP's comments on the proposal. The DRO then submits a written report to the AEO, including the MP's response.

Before approving the appointment of a dual polling place, the AEO WA considers all relevant aspects of the request including the Member's response.

Number of dual polling places in Western Australia

For the 2004 federal election there were twenty-one (21) locations in WA at which there were dual polling places.

Two of these locations where there are dual polling places are "town hall" or "super" booths which are appointed in most State capitals and areas such as holiday destinations where high levels of absent declaration votes are cast. The creation of these polling places reduces the number of absent declaration votes cast in these areas. In WA these are located in the Perth CBD (Trinity Uniting Church Hall) and Rottnest Island. All fifteen divisions (15) in WA issue ordinary votes from these two locations. This equates to 30 of the 69 dual polling places in WA, or 43%.

List of dual polling places in Western Australia

A full list of dual polling places in Western Australia is shown at Table 1. This list provides the location of the dual polling place, the home division and the number of ordinary votes recorded by each of the divisions sharing the dual polling place.

Table 1 – Location of Dual Polling Places in Western Australia showing the number of votes issued by the home Division and the sharing Division

Location	Home Division	No. of Votes	Sharing Division	No. of Votes
Ascension Church Hall Midland	Hasluck	1810	Pearce	263
Ashburton Drive Primary School Gosnells	Hasluck	2290	Canning	322
Davallia Primary School Duncraig	Moore	1836	Stirling	239
Doubleview Primary School Doubleview	Stirling	3417	Curtin	604

¹ The relevant MP in this case is the MP for the division for which absent declaration votes would have to be issued at the polling place if it was not a dual polling place. That is, if a dual polling place is going to be established in Division A to issue ordinary votes for Division B, the relevant MP is the MP for Division B.

Location	Home Division	No. of Votes	Sharing Division	No. of Votes
Forest Crescent Primary School Thornlie	Canning	2979	Hasluck	240
Greek Orthodox Church West Perth	Curtin	553	Perth	311
Helena Valley Recreation Hall Helena Valley	Hasluck	1202	Pearce	495
Huntingdale Primary School Huntingdale	Hasluck	1997	Canning	1459
Kardinya Primary School Kardinya	Tangney	1658	Fremantle	1207
Melville Recreation Centre Melville	Tangney	891	Fremantle	566
Munglinup Sports Pavilion Munglinup	O'Connor	52	Kalgoorlie	39
North Beach Autumn Centre North Beach	Stirling	390	Moore	434
North Morley Primary School Noranda	Cowan	875	Perth Stirling	483 1967
Rottnest Primary School Rottnest Island	Fremantle	135	Brand Canning Cowan Curtin Forrest Hasluck Kalgoorlie Moore O'Connor Pearce Perth Stirling Swan Tangney	26 15 26 163 25 21 15 41 10 28 58 67 53 71
Swan View High School Swan View	Pearce	4237	Hasluck	334
Thornlie Senior High School Thornlie	Hasluck	3082	Canning	781

Location	Home Division	No. of Votes	Sharing Division	No. of Votes
Trinity Uniting Church Hall Perth	Perth	144	Brand Canning Cowan Curtin Forrest Fremantle Hasluck Kalgoorlie Moore O'Connor Pearce Stirling Swan Tangney	56 80 109 290 89 107 99 106 114 105 80 162 53 106
Tuart Hill Primary School Tuart Hill	Stirling	2541	Curtin	277
Walliston Primary School Walliston	Hasluck	1217	Pearce	483
Wembley Downs Primary School Wembley Downs	Curtin	2313	Stirling	590
Yale Primary School Thornlie	Hasluck	2494	Canning	357

2. CANBERRA HEARING – FRIDAY 5 AUGUST

Pages 19-20: Postal Voting Certificates not returned

Senator Forshaw requested statistics on the number of non-returned ballot papers from postal votes.

Response:

National statistics on the number of non-returned postal vote certificates were provided in AEC's sixth submission to the Committee. Additional information showing a breakdown by division is provided at Table 2.

Table 2. Postal voting certificates not returned by division

State	Division	Total Issued For Division	Postal Votes Returned	Postal Votes Not Returned
NSW	Banks	5,028	4,330	698
NSW	Barton	4,786	4,014	772
NSW	Bennelong	5,824	4,843	981
NSW	Berowra	5,252	4,140	1,112
NSW	Blaxland	4,168	3,542	626
NSW	Bradfield	6,316	5,128	1,188
NSW	Calare	3,937	3,295	642
NSW	Charlton	5,637	4,701	936
NSW	Chifley	3,430	2,815	615
NSW	Cook	4,838	4,020	818
NSW	Cowper	3,993	3,345	648
NSW	Cunningham	6,117	5,152	965
NSW	Dobell	5,185	4,401	784
NSW	Eden-Monaro	6,214	4,983	1,231
NSW	Farrer	5,547	4,659	888
NSW	Fowler	3,325	2,747	578
NSW	Gilmore	4,827	4,032	795
NSW	Grayndler	4,583	3,551	1,032
NSW	Greenway	4,559	3,829	730
NSW	Gwydir	4,602	3,937	665
NSW	Hughes	4,425	3,348	1,077
NSW	Hume	4,856	4,102	754
NSW	Hunter	4,469	3,543	926
NSW	Kingsford Smith	4,955	3,872	1,083

State	Division	Total Issued For Division	Postal Votes Returned	Postal Votes Not Returned
NSW	Lindsay	3,876	3,299	577
NSW	Lowe	5,735	4,704	1,031
NSW	Lyne	3,957	3,276	681
NSW	Macarthur	3,376	2,794	582
NSW	Mackellar	4,853	3,919	934
NSW	Macquarie	4,930	4,073	857
NSW	Mitchell	5,203	4,219	984
NSW	New England	5,115	4,258	857
NSW	Newcastle	5,977	5,031	946
NSW	North Sydney	6,115	5,010	1,105
NSW	Page	5,454	4,490	964
NSW	Parkes	4,335	3,652	683
NSW	Parramatta	6,469	5,240	1,229
NSW	Paterson	5,782	4,719	1,063
NSW	Prospect	3,420	2,737	683
NSW	Reid	3,979	3,335	644
NSW	Richmond	6,837	5,835	1,002
NSW	Riverina	3,657	3,034	623
NSW	Robertson	5,530	4,679	851
NSW	Shortland	5,967	5,021	946
NSW	Sydney	5,733	4,396	1,337
NSW	Throsby	4,710	4,034	676
NSW	Warringah	5,160	3,996	1,164
NSW	Watson	4,295	3,480	815
NSW	Wentworth	7,036	5,474	1,562
NSW	Werriwa	3,952	3,264	688

State	Division	Total Issued For Division	Postal Votes Returned	Postal Votes Not Returned
Vic	Aston	5,950	5,278	672
Vic	Ballarat	5,850	5,357	493
Vic	Batman	5,766	5,335	431
Vic	Bendigo	5,601	5,140	461
Vic	Bruce	5,656	5,093	563
Vic	Calwell	3,741	3,354	387
Vic	Casey	5,662	5,153	509
Vic	Chisholm	6,566	5,924	642
Vic	Corangamite	6,479	5,715	764
Vic	Corio	5,196	4,723	473
Vic	Deakin	7,890	7,104	786
Vic	Dunkley	6,101	5,474	627
Vic	Flinders	6,079	5,450	629
Vic	Gellibrand	4,712	4,108	604
Vic	Gippsland	5,893	5,239	654
Vic	Goldstein	6,186	5,449	737
Vic	Gorton	3,936	3,565	371
Vic	Higgins	6,825	5,950	875
Vic	Holt	4,791	4,390	401
Vic	Hotham	5,472	4,990	482
Vic	Indi	5,420	4,816	604
Vic	Isaacs	5,913	5,279	634
Vic	Jagajaga	6,594	5,878	716
Vic	Kooyong	5,812	5,148	664
Vic	La Trobe	6,571	5,970	601
Vic	Lalor	3,541	3,230	311

State	Division	Total Issued For Division	Postal Votes Returned	Postal Votes Not Returned
Vic	Mallee	4,957	4,492	465
Vic	Maribyrnong	4,710	4,230	480
Vic	McEwen	8,154	7,398	756
Vic	McMillan	5,465	4,985	480
Vic	Melbourne	4,416	3,693	723
Vic	Melbourne Ports	9,445	8,170	1,275
Vic	Menzies	5,530	4,917	613
Vic	Murray	3,961	3,583	378
Vic	Scullin	4,390	3,951	439
Vic	Wannon	5,959	5,450	509
Vic	Wills	5,606	4,995	611
Qld	Blair	6,196	5,585	611
Qld	Bonner	6,243	5,542	701
Qld	Bowman	5,171	4,652	519
Qld	Brisbane	6,287	5,489	798
Qld	Capricornia	7,443	6,665	778
Qld	Dawson	5,273	4,523	750
Qld	Dickson	4,713	4,174	539
Qld	Fadden	4,751	3,888	863
Qld	Fairfax	4,336	3,853	483
Qld	Fisher	5,250	4,587	663
Qld	Forde	5,582	4,882	700
Qld	Griffith	6,638	5,798	840
Qld	Groom	5,758	5,224	534
Qld	Herbert	4,871	4,088	783
Qld	Hinkler	7,532	6,667	865

State	Division	Total Issued For Division	Postal Votes Returned	Postal Votes Not Returned
Qld	Kennedy	6,939	5,619	1,320
Qld	Leichhardt	4,467	3,640	827
Qld	Lilley	7,168	6,384	784
Qld	Longman	5,319	4,740	579
Qld	Maranoa	12,770	10,643	2,127
Qld	McPherson	4,866	4,262	604
Qld	Moncrieff	4,965	4,320	645
Qld	Moreton	6,328	5,541	787
Qld	Oxley	5,392	4,832	560
Qld	Petrie	6,377	5,626	751
Qld	Rankin	5,890	5,231	659
Qld	Ryan	5,415	4,742	673
Qld	Wide Bay	6,525	5,838	687
WA	Brand	3,608	2,899	709
WA	Canning	3,521	2,856	665
WA	Cowan	3,295	2,615	680
WA	Curtin	4,758	3,551	1,207
WA	Forrest	3,119	2,264	855
WA	Fremantle	3,523	2,694	829
WA	Hasluck	3,431	2,738	693
WA	Kalgoorlie	3,637	2,467	1,170
WA	Moore	3,257	2,428	829
WA	O'Connor	3,653	2,664	989
WA	Pearce	3,846	3,006	840
WA	Perth	4,059	3,232	827
WA	Stirling	4,359	3,353	1,006

State	Division	Total Issued For Division	Postal Votes Returned	Postal Votes Not Returned
WA	Swan	4,169	3,323	846
WA	Tangney	3,693	2,853	840
SA	Adelaide	6,096	5,107	989
SA	Barker	4,790	4,048	742
SA	Boothby	5,246	4,483	763
SA	Grey	5,278	4,547	731
SA	Hindmarsh	5,672	4,978	694
SA	Kingston	5,105	4,359	746
SA	Makin	4,494	3,876	618
SA	Mayo	4,932	4,273	659
SA	Port Adelaide	4,606	4,115	491
SA	Sturt	5,406	4,635	771
SA	Wakefield	4,394	3,753	641
Tas	Bass	4,139	3,714	425
Tas	Braddon	3,282	2,974	308
Tas	Denison	4,146	3,691	455
Tas	Franklin	3,701	3,304	397
Tas	Lyons	3,624	3,308	316
ACT	Canberra	5,291	3,879	1,412
ACT	Fraser	5,917	4,238	1,679
NT	Lingiari	2,150	1,798	352
NT	Solomon	2,287	1,992	295

State Totals			
NSW	248,326	204,298	44,028
VIC	210,796	188,976	21,820
QLD	168,465	147,035	21,430
WA	55,928	42,943	12,985
SA	56,019	48,174	7,845
TAS	18,892	16,991	1,901
ACT	11,208	8,117	3,091
NT	4,437	3,790	647

National Totals	Total number of Postal Votes Issued	Postal Votes Returned	Postal Votes Not Returned
AUS	774,071	660,324	113,747

When reading the statistics it should be noted that, in addition to general postal voters, postal votes are issued to all applicants who provide a fully completed application and that this may include some persons who are not on the electoral roll. Additionally, a number of people submit more than one postal vote application and may receive more than one postal voting package, however only one completed postal vote may be admitted to the count. Further a number of people who apply for a postal vote will in fact vote by other means.

3. SYDNEY HEARING – FRIDAY 12 AUGUST

During the course of the Sydney hearing of the Committee on 12 August 2005, the Committee received evidence from AEC Divisional Returning Officer, Mr Ivan Freys, appearing in a private capacity, relating both to areas of the AEC's conduct of the 2004 election, and to AEC operations more generally, on which the AEC has not yet provided comment. The AEC welcomes the opportunity to comment on these areas in this current submission.

It should be noted that a number of Mr Freys' claims are incorrect and some of his concerns about the conduct of the 2004 election have not previously been raised with AEC management.

AEC internal staff feedback mechanisms

Page 21 of the transcript, for the Sydney hearing on 12 August 2005, includes discussion of AEC internal feedback mechanisms. The AEC has a number of mechanisms in place to enable staff to be involved in giving and receiving feedback on AEC issues. Although staff are encouraged to provide feedback unfortunately not all staff choose to take up the opportunities.

A significant aspect of the AEC organisation is its multi-level and multi-branch structure. This decentralised structure, whilst having positive attributes for an organisation that conducts wide-ranging fieldwork, also allows for situations to occur where details of decisions made, the reasons for making them, or programs implemented in one area are not immediately obvious to people in other areas. The AEC is conscious that people in all locations and at all levels of the AEC have valuable contributions to make in the AEC's policy development and review, and in this spirit, aims to provide a variety of mechanisms for all staff to provide feedback to management and to be involved in internal working parties.

After each federal electoral event, the AEC undertakes a formal review process. Conferences are held initially in each State and Territory and are attended by DROs, DO staff, Head Office (HO) managers, Central Office (CO) representatives and representatives from other States/Territories. An agenda is developed for each conference which includes the issues raised by staff within the State/Territory and each item is discussed to form a recommendation for resolution. CO representatives attend to provide input on issues where necessary, and to gather material for the National Post Election conference, which is held after all State and Territory conferences are finalised.

During the 2004 election, DO staff were also requested to record issues of concern and matters for review. This information was reviewed centrally to determine areas where further development or enhancement was required to systems, procedures or policies.

All systems and documentation are reviewed and updated between each event as part of the continuous improvement process. Innovations are explored and recommendations to implement these are submitted to internal committees. Where relevant, national working parties are formed with representatives from both divisional and head offices. The AEC CO area responsible for implementing the procedures, systems and policies has only a small number of staff, therefore the ongoing support and input of DO and HO staff has always been vital. At a state level, working parties are also used as required to investigate and review specific matters determined by local management. In NSW there are a number of ongoing working parties covering a range of operational requirements.

The move to computerised enrolment systems

Pages 19, 32 and 33 of the proof transcript for the Sydney hearing, on 12 August 2005, records the Committee taking evidence in relation to the AEC's transfer from a hand written card-index based electoral roll to a computerised electoral roll management system.

During the early 1980s the AEC moved from a hard-copy habitation card-index based system to take advantage of the increased integrity and efficiency that a computerised electoral roll could provide. As well as providing for centralised roll management, the

computerised system can provide increased anti-fraud checks and alerts for AEC officers processing enrolment applications.

The current enrolment management procedures include the use of a computerised address register. This register includes both enrollable addresses (addresses that have been verified as residential addresses), and identified non-residential addresses. All addresses must be verified before being added to the address register, and before an enrolment (on the electronic Roll Management System, or RMANS) can be added for that address. The non-residential addresses provide an extra safeguard against fraudulent enrolment at invalid addresses.

A variety of methods are employed to verify addresses, including contact with local government authorities, reference to a variety of computerised mapping systems and cadastral data where available, and include 'drive by' surveys by AEC officers. From time to time staff are employed to conduct a fieldwork review of the address register in areas of rapid (re)development. Address checks are also undertaken as part of targeted review (of enrolment) fieldwork.

Evidence was received by the Committee that during the process of transferring from the card-index based system to the electronic system, the information on the card index system was 'lost'. In fact, during the process, all addresses where electors were currently enrolled were carried forward into the new enrolment system information. It is accepted that addresses where there was no current enrolment were not carried forward. During the period that the card index was maintained, it was accepted practice that, when an enrolment form was received for an address not previously known to the AEC, a card was created for that address. Checking of the address would occur when a habitation review was conducted, using local knowledge and verification through local government and other authorities. All addresses are now subject to the address verification procedures outlined above, which continue to improve the integrity and completeness of the address register.

Declaration vote advice letters to electors after the 1999 referendum and 2001 federal election

Page 24 of the transcript for the Sydney hearing, on 12 August 2005, records discussion around whether declaration advice letters were sent after the 1999 referendum or 2001 election. A significant task that is undertaken following each electoral event is the preparation and despatch of voter advice letters to declaration voters whose votes could not be counted, or whose votes could only be 'partially admitted'. Both the Electoral Act and the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* require these advices to be sent [Schedule 3, paragraph 21 Electoral Act & Schedule 4, paragraph 18 RMPA].

In preparation for the 1999 Referendum the letter templates were amended appropriately, and all staff were advised of this via 'Referendum Bulletin #3', on Friday 3 September 1999. Prior to 2001, including for the Referendum, the process involved the AEC's CO preparing a database and providing the templates with instructions to DROs for their use in the preparation and production of letters for electors in their divisional offices. DROs were totally responsible for the despatch of these letters.

AEC procedures for producing these letters underwent a review between the 1999 referendum and the 2001 election. For the 2001 election, following the decommissioning of the system previously used to produce declaration vote advice letters at a divisional

office level, arrangements were put in place to centrally produce and post these letters using a mail house. Unfortunately, due to difficulties with AEC software development, the testing of these letters was delayed, and a decision was taken in February 2002 not to send the declaration vote advice letters for the 2001 election. The data was instead to be used for enrolment follow-up purposes where appropriate. This information was communicated to all staff.

The total number of voter advice letters not sent at the 2001 election was 246,485. Of these, 142,243 related to circumstances where the rejection reason was "not enrolled". Other common reasons for rejection included unsigned declarations, votes received too late [i.e. after the 13-day legislative cut-off] and partially admitted [Senate only admitted as wrong division declared].

Summary analysis of the 142,243 electors mentioned above revealed that more than 100,000 had an enrolment history. Of these, more than 64,000 re-enrolled before the 2004 election and 15,000 provided a permanent overseas address. The great majority of people who did not receive an advice letter were enrolled for the 2004 election.

After the 2004 election, 322,192 declaration voter advice letters were centrally despatched.

Youth enrolment strategies and procedures

Pages 31 and 32 of the transcript for the Sydney hearing, on 12 August 2005, include discussion of the AEC's approach to youth enrolment. As identified in the hearing the AEC provides guidelines to divisional staff in relation to conducting youth enrolment programs and welcomes initiatives from divisional staff in conducting these programs.

In addition to divisional level programs, the AEC also conducts a number of general enrolment strategies to target young people and address youth under-enrolment. As outlined in the AEC's previous submissions, there are a number of national public awareness and media initiatives in place, including the national School and Community Visits Program conducted by DROs at a local level, and Electoral Education Centres in three cities which receive more than 100,000 visitors each year. There have also been specific initiatives such as 'Rock Enrol' conducted in early 2004 which attracted 4,000 youth enrolments through a dedicated web site and an AEC presence at each of the 'Big Day Out' Concerts. The AEC is also currently in the process of conducting the Youth Electoral Study.

Youth are also targeted through the centralised Continuous Roll Update (CRU) program, where direct mail and, in some cases, door knocks, are used to specifically target electors to enrol or update their enrolment. In relation to youth and CRU, the AEC uses data supplied by Centrelink containing details of persons aged 17 and 18 to mail to newly eligible electors encouraging them to enrol. Data from motor transport authorities is also used to encourage youth enrolment through the AEC's Continuous Roll Update program. The value of using motor transport data as a major data source to increase youth enrolment was demonstrated when the AEC first used the New South Wales Road Transport Authority data. The enrolment of 18 year olds in NSW increased from 41% to 79% within 2 months of the first mail out using this data. Both Centrelink data and transport data, for those states where it has been obtained, are now included in every monthly mailout.

In addition to the divisional and centralised strategies, there are also various State based initiatives which include AEC staff attending university open days, and paying a bounty to schools for collection of completed enrolment forms from eligible students.

AEC internal audit

Page 37 of the transcript for the Sydney hearing on 12 August 2005, identifies the need for internal audit procedures in an organisation such as the AEC to take into account reviews of processes and procedures in electoral systems and staff performance.

Following each electoral event the AEC reviews all systems, procedures and policies using input from staff from a cross section of divisional and head offices as reference group and working party members.

The AEC database system used to recruit and pay all temporary staff is audited following each electoral event to determine if any issues of non-compliance with AEC guidelines have occurred. This audit is undertaken by the AEC's outsourced provider.

The AEC's review process takes a layered approach including divisional, head and central offices undertaking reviews relevant to their operations.

A regular Status Report is provided by CO to keep staff advised of the progress of system and procedural development. National testing is undertaken prior to the release of any new system, and all systems are utilised prior to each election through the conduct of a practice election.

In keeping with the AEC's strategic focus, a framework paper was developed to monitor the progress of the evaluation of the 2004 election. Objective 2 of the framework is *'To inform and document process improvement for the next federal election expected in financial year 2007/08'*. A framework for the next election is currently being planned.

4. ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Voter identification trials in NSW, Qld and Victoria

The Committee requested information on the conduct of voter identification and direct mailout trials by the State electoral offices.

1. Victorian voter ID card trial in 1994

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has advised that it conducted a trial of voter ID cards at the Coburg District by-election in 1994. The 2 broad aims of the trial were:

1. to address a perception that an improved method of voter identification was required; and
2. to encourage voter participation by ensuring that each voter was sent personally addressed official communication about the by-election.

The VEC has advised that the results did show an increase in voter turnout compared to other by-elections but raised a number of further questions to be considered in relation to whether the use of voter cards addressed the voter identification issue.

The VEC has provided a copy of the Report on the Coburg District By-election 14 May 1994, attached at Attachment B.

2. New South Wales voter card trials in 1999 and 2005

The State Electoral Office (SEO) in New South Wales has advised that voter cards were first trialled in 1999 for the NSW state elections. There was no report published on the results of the trial.

In 2005 the SEO sent voter cards to electors for the Hurstville by-election. It was described in the SEO's Report on the Hurstville Council Penshurst Ward By-election as follows:

The SEO, in consultation with the council produced a household brochure – voter card which was delivered to all of the electors on the Hurstville City Council Penshurst ward roll.

The voter card was mailed to electors in the penultimate week prior to election day and instructed electors to present the card at polling places to make voting quicker for them. It also provided details of the location of polling places as well as important information regarding the method of voting.

The SEO advises that the voter card scheme was well received, particularly by non-English speaking voters.

3. Queensland direct voter mailout trial in 2004

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) conducted a trial of a direct elector mail campaign in support of the 2004 Queensland state general election. The ECQ annual report advises:

Personally addressed information packs were mailed to each enrolled elector following the close of rolls for the election. The packs contained details of the elector's enrolled District and polling booth details. In addition, a leaflet gave details of the various options for voting, an explanation of the optional preferential voting system and the counting method and provided contact details for the Commission's call centre and website. Translation service details were included for electors requiring such assistance.

Electors were encouraged in their voter information letter and in complementary advertising to take their letter with them wherever they voted. Results were patchy across the State but sampling suggests that some 60% of electors took their letters with them when they voted.

The ECQ has also advised the AEC that this approach was also used with success at the recent by-elections for the Queensland Districts of Chatsworth and Redcliffe.

Electronic voting options

This section of the submission discusses options for electronic voting and provides detailed information in relation to possible trials.

Electronic voting can be delivered by using either electronic vote recording systems (also called direct recording electronic voting systems, or DREs) or remote electronic voting systems.

DREs are any system where the elector casts their vote on an electronic voting machine, such as a dedicated computer terminal, touch screen computer or other purpose-built equipment in a polling place. Once recorded, the elector's vote is stored in the machine. After voting has concluded, data is transferred electronically to a counting system.

Remote electronic voting can use a variety of delivery systems. These include the Internet, an organisation's intranet, touch-tone phones using interactive voice recognition (IVR), mobile phones using short message system (SMS) text facility, or interactive digital television (iDTV). All of these delivery systems have two things in common: they are remote access systems, that is to say remote from a traditional polling place, enabling the elector to vote from home, work or any public outlet (such as an Internet café); and they are online systems, where the elector's vote is despatched in real time to a secure electronic vote store, where it is held prior to counting.

Against the background of current IT development and costs, the AEC does not believe that DREs can be deployed in all polling places for a federal election in the near future. The deployment and support of DREs at over 7,700 polling places at a federal election would be an extremely expensive exercise. For example, it cost the ACT Electoral Commission \$406,000 to develop and deploy ten DREs each at four pre-poll voting centres and eight polling places at the 2001 ACT election. \$225,000 of this was invested in reusable software and hardware. As a consequence the cost of deploying fifteen or twenty DREs each to the same number of pre-poll voting centres and polling places at the 2004 election was \$179,000.

These costs above were incurred in the relatively condensed jurisdiction of the ACT. The cost of rolling out DREs across 7,700 polling places at a federal election would be proportionately much greater.

The AEC believes that there is little scope to improve the cost structure through a joint investment in DREs by the AEC and all State and Territory electoral agencies. Given the three to four year election cycles, the systems would not be used often enough, while the technology would continue to age. Complimentary legislation establishing a similar electronic voting system would also have to be passed by the federal Parliament and all State and Territory parliaments.

One of the main drivers for the introduction for DREs is a complex ballot. This is the case in the ACT and the Netherlands, with multi-member constituencies and proportional representation, and the USA, with multiple elections on the one ballot paper. Complex ballot papers can lead to an increase in informal votes and delays in arriving at accurate results.

Australian federal elections usually have an informality rate of around 4.25% for the House of Representatives² and 3.6% for the Senate³. Results for most House of Representatives divisions, and indicative results for the Senate, are usually known within a few hours after polling closes at 6pm on polling day. The AEC is not able to finalise results until at least 13 days after polling day, as this is the amount of time provided in the Electoral Act for postal votes completed before the close of polls to be delivered to the relevant Divisional Returning Officer.

The usual issues of informality and timely results would not seem to justify the expense of wide-scale deployment of DREs in Australian federal elections.

For these reasons the AEC believes that traditional paper-based voting systems as providing the most reliable and cost effective means for the majority electors to cast their vote.

The AEC is of the opinion, however, that electronic voting could provide improved access to electoral services for certain classes of electors.

The AEC has identified a range of electors who may benefit from electronic voting, both in the form of DREs and remote electronic voting systems. They include electors in remote locations in both Australia and overseas, ADF personnel serving overseas or in remote areas of Australia, electors from non-English speaking backgrounds, electors with disability and electors in the Antarctic.

Options for electronic voting trials

The AEC notes that providing DREs at pre-poll voting centres and divisional offices would be a viable option for those electors with disability who can access a polling place, but then have difficulty in independently completing a ballot paper. By voting using a DRE, electors with print disability would be able to vote in secret and without assistance.

² National informality for recent House of Representatives elections was: 1996 3.2%, 1998 3.8%, 2001 4.8% and 2004 5.2%.

³ National informality for recent Senate elections was: 1996 3.5%, 1998 3.2%, 2001 3.9% and 2004 3.8%.

DREs will not address the issues of access to electoral services for electors in remote locations, both in Australia and overseas, who do not have access to a reliable postal service. Electronic voting using DREs requires an elector to attend a pre-poll voting centre or divisional office, and it is their inability to do so in the first place that makes voting difficult for these electors.

For this reason, the AEC is considering options for two trials of electronic voting:

- a pilot of DREs in selected pre-poll voting centres and divisional offices, and
- a pilot of remote electronic voting for using secure Intranet facilities

The Electoral Act and the Referendum Act would have to be amended to enable the trials to proceed.

DRE Pilot

An initial pilot of DREs in selected pre-poll voting centres and divisional offices would primarily targeted at electors with print disability. It should be noted that other electors voting at a pre-poll voting centre or a divisional office might also wish to vote using a DRE.

The trial should be limited to about 30 locations which would enable inclusion of locations in every capital city and some major provincial centres. The final locations would be determined in consultation with peak disability associations, taking into account the local population of electors with print disability and the availability of accessible premises. At least two DREs would be deployed at each location to reduce queuing and provide redundancy.

For pre-poll votes to be cast using a DRE, it would be necessary to amend the Electoral Act to enable the elector's name to be marked off the electoral roll at the time that they voted. This means that there would be two different treatments of pre-poll votes at pre-poll voting centres and divisional offices equipped with DREs – those cast in the traditional manner as declaration votes and those cast on a DRE.

An issue to be solved would be the way in which Senate ballot papers are displayed on DREs, in order to ensure that no candidates obtain an undue advantage from their position on the ballot paper, and the way in which information about the "Above the Line" and "Below the Line" voting options is provided to the elector.

The AEC has discussed in a previous submission (submission 6) the reasons why it does not believe that electronically assisted voting is a suitable electronic voting option for Australia.

Remote Electronic Voting Pilot

The remote electronic voting pilot would be limited to electors who can be readily identified and registered by the AEC, either by using existing electoral registration or by adapting existing registration used by the elector's organisation, and have ready access to the necessary technology. A couple of groups that come to mind are Australian Antarctic electors and ADF personnel.

Australian Antarctic electors are already uniquely identified on the electoral roll, where they are registered as a special category of elector under s249 of the Electoral Act. The AEC understands that ADF personnel are precisely identified as part of the ADF's personnel management processes, and that deployed ADF personnel are identified as such on the ADF's personnel management system.

The AEC understands that both Antarctic electors and deployed ADF personnel would have access to the necessary technology to vote using a remote electronic voting system.

The remote electronic voting system might operate within an organisation's firewall (an intranet system), rather than across the open Internet. The AEC believes that an organisation's intranet (such as the Defence intranet) is the only practical and secure medium for the first trial of remote electronic voting at an Australian election.

IVR and SMS systems would have great difficulty in recording votes under Australia's full preferential voting and proportional representative voting systems. For example, an elector completing a NSW Senate ballot paper "below the line" could have to enter over 70 preferences in their phone message. Evaluations in the United Kingdom, where SMS has been trialled in local government elections, have found that it was not supported as a voting system, even amongst those who use it elsewhere, because it was seen to trivialise the election process.⁴ iDTV is not seen as an option as the technology is not widely available.

Participation in the Trials

In proposing deployed ADF personnel and people with disability as participants in any trial, the AEC has taken note of submissions to the Committee from the Department of Defence and several disability associations, supporting electronic voting trials.

Deployed ADF personnel operate in environments that can make reliance on postal voting methods ineffective and, in some cases, dangerous, while many electors with print disability are unable to cast a vote in secret or to independently verify how they voted.

Antarctic electors have been proposed for inclusion in any trial because the current process for transmitting Antarctic elector's votes by radiotelephone cannot assure a secret ballot.

The number of electors who could be eligible to participate in any trials would depend upon the number of deployed ADF personnel and Antarctic electors at the time of the election and the engagement in the trials of people with disability.

At the 2004 federal election there were over 1,500 ADF personnel deployed into overseas theatres, a further 665 naval personnel on warships at sea, and 63 Antarctic electors.

Estimates of the population who experience vision impairment range from 112,800 people reporting vision impairment as their main disabling condition (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1998, reported in "Disability, Aging and Carers: Summary of Findings") to 380,000 people with legal blindness and low vision (Vision Australia Foundation website home page). Market research conducted for Radio for the Print Handicapped estimated a total audience Australia-wide of over 3.3 million people with a print disability.

The AEC would consult with the Department of Defence, the Department of the Environment and Heritage (Antarctic Division) and peak disability associations about access to the electoral services to be provided to certain classes of electors by any trials.

⁴ Dr Lawrence Pratchet and the E-Voting Research Team, Local Government Association, "The Implementation of Electronic Voting in the UK", May 2002

Purpose of the Trials

The AEC is of the view that electronic voting is an election system, in the same way that postal voting and attendance voting are election systems. The fundamental issue should not be the technologies that enable different voting processes, but whether the risks associated with an election system are clearly understood by all stakeholders, which of those risks are unacceptable to stakeholders, and to what degree those risks can be reduced to an acceptable level by the application of appropriate controls. Trials of electronic voting would enable the AEC to analyse the effectiveness of controls used to mitigate risks relating to the security and integrity of electronic voting systems.

Issues to be resolved with DREs include accessibility of the system for electors with disability, deploying DREs to widely distributed locations, and supporting DREs at those locations.

Issues to be resolved with remote electronic voting include the identification and registration of potential electronic voters, the online verification of actual electronic voters, and the vulnerability of Internet and intranet services to interruptions.

Issues to be resolved for both electronic voting systems include the verification of votes, ensuring the secrecy of each vote, and integration of electronic votes with votes cast by electors using traditional voting systems at the same election.

Information obtained about the implementation of electronic voting in limited trials will inform consideration of whether electronic voting is scalable to a wider class of participants at future elections.

Provision of “How to Vote” material

The AEC recognises that an important element of the electoral process is the provision of “How to Vote” information by candidates to electors.

Electors voting on a DRE at a pre-poll voting centre or divisional office would have access to “How to Vote” cards distributed by party workers.

For electors using remote electronic voting systems “How to Vote” material could be made available electronically. Such an arrangement would have the remote electronic voting system operate similarly to a mobile polling team. Mobile polling teams are supplied with “How to Vote” cards and make them available to electors upon request. A remote electronic voting system might operate on a similar principle, providing access to electronic “How to Vote” material on a candidate’s website.

Party Registration – State and Territory requirements

The chair requested information in relation to the registration and deregistration process for each state and territory. The AEC has collated the information provided by each state electoral authority. This information is at Attachment C.

Enrolment initiatives - the AEC's Continuous Roll Update programme

As requested by the JSCEM Secretariat, this section of the submission discusses current issues in relation to the AEC's Continuous Roll Update (CRU) process and public awareness activities aimed at enrolment target groups such as youth, the homeless and indigenous groups.

Since 2002-03, the AEC has been progressing implementation of the recommendations contained in the Australian National Audit Office Report No. 42, 2001-2002, titled *Integrity of the Electoral Roll* (the ANAO report) and the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters report on its review of the ANAO report titled *The Integrity of the Electoral Roll* (the JSCEM report). Both these reports made recommendations in relation to the CRU process. A summary of implementation progress against the recommendations of both reports is at Attachment D1.

The AEC is continuing to refine CRU processes to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of activities, and gain consistency across states and territories.

A new mail review system, designed to provide a consistent national CRU mail-out process, was implemented nationally in January 2005. This system combines all internal and external mail review data into a single monthly mailout, replacing six separate systems. The amalgamation of the mail-outs into a single process has led to internal processing efficiencies, such as national consistency in CRU processing and reduced the potential for duplicate mailing.

Further, national standards for CRU activities that define the minimum level of activity, subject to funding, that can be undertaken consistent with maintaining the quality of electoral rolls have been developed and are being implemented. A copy of the national standards are at Attachment D2.

The AEC has also determined a starting point optimal suite of CRU data sources. A list of current CRU data sources is at Attachment D3.

The AEC has identified a number of state/territory government data sources, such as Road Transport Authority (RTA) driver's licence data, as valuable in identifying potential new electors and those electors that might need to update their current details. This data can also be used in 'background review' to confirm that electors' current roll details are correct. However, to date, the AEC has encountered problems accessing these data sources in a number of jurisdictions that have their own privacy legislation, preventing national access to a number of data sources, such as RTA data in the Northern Territory, Victoria and Queensland.

One of the ways in which the AEC is addressing the issue of inconsistent access to state/territory data sources is through the development of yearly Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between AEOs for each state/territory and the relevant state/territory electoral commissioners. The MOUs set out the agreed enrolment activities that will be undertaken in the relevant jurisdiction during each financial year. They also contain undertakings to work cooperatively in seeking access to relevant new data sources.

However, the issue of inconsistent access to state/territory government data sources could be alleviated if the demand power contained in section 92 of the Electoral Act covered all state/territory government agencies/officers rather than just state/territory

electoral, police and statistical officers as is currently the case. Such an extension of the demand power would mean that if the AEC determines a particular type of data source is valuable for roll update purposes (eg. RTA licence data) we can obtain data from each state/territory without having to negotiate on a state by state basis. Further, as the disclosure of the data by the state/territory would then be "required or authorised by law" privacy requirements would be satisfied. While an amendment to section 92 was recently passed widening the demand power to include "other prescribed officers" of state/territory governments, the policy authority for this amendment was in relation to the introduction of a proof of identity requirement for electoral enrolment. This amendment is awaiting proclamation while negotiations with state/territory governments are carried out. In any case, once proclaimed, this provision could not properly be used for purposes other than for the verification of the identity of electors at the point of enrolment.

Possible recommendation: that the Electoral Act demand power be expanded to allow the AEC direct access to state and territory government agency data.

In response to ANAO and JSCEM recommendations, the AEC is implementing activities (such as annual Sample Audit Fieldwork) to better measure the quality of the rolls and assist in effectively managing the CRU program and other enrolment-related activities.

The AEC's ability to analyse the effectiveness of its enrolment activities will be further enhanced when the Enrolment Management Information System is implemented (a phased implementation will commence during the 2005/06 financial year).

Enrolment target groups

The AEC is actively investigating the possibility of establishing partnerships with relevant government agencies responsible for service delivery to groups that have been identified as enrolment target groups. This includes youth, indigenous and the homeless.

Youth

As discussed above in relation to issues raised at the Sydney hearing of the current inquiry, encouraging youth enrolment has been a key priority of the AEC for a number of years. Further information on programs to target youth enrolment was provided in the AEC's submission 5 (part 1.3) to the current inquiry.

Indigenous people

The AEC is currently developing an integrated strategy for electoral services for indigenous clients. The aim of the strategy is to improve the way we deliver services to indigenous clients so that better outcomes are achieved in terms of their participation in, and understanding of, electoral events.

During 2004/05, the AEC also began discussions with other Australian Government departments, such as Centrelink, the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination, Department of Transport and Regional Services and Department of Family and Community Services regarding the potential to cooperate in presenting public awareness programs to indigenous communities. Discussions are ongoing.

In the lead-up to 2004 election, the AEC participated in many local indigenous events to conduct awareness sessions and collect enrolment forms. Additionally, AEC staff and specially employed Community Electoral Information Officers across the country sought access to appropriate networks that could be used for the circulation of enrolment and voting information

Homeless people

As described in the AEC's fifth submission to the current inquiry, the AEC and the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) held a joint workshop with homeless service providers in February 2004.

Further, in 2004, the AEC joined with the Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University, to undertake a research project, Bringing Democracy Home—Enfranchising Australia's Homeless.

The research was aimed at better understanding and identifying obstacles the homeless cohort faces in connection with election participation. The study found that the main factors that discourage homeless people from voting are exclusion from social life, disillusionment with government, and a lack of resources for anything but basic needs. Transport was another issue, along with minimal access to information, transience, and difficulty conforming to the timeframe for updating enrolment after an election has been announced. The full text of the paper can be accessed at http://www.aec.gov.au/_content/How/research/papers/paper6/index.htm

While a certain percentage of Australia's homeless population may prefer to be disengaged from any political processes or civic involvement, a significant percentage of people experiencing homelessness are interested in participation and could be engaged through civic awareness programs, a better understanding of itinerant voter procedures, and the availability of resources that neutralize hurdles that prevent them from participating in the electoral process.

Use of state/territory government agencies and peak bodies to promote enrolment

The AEC is exploring, with state and territory electoral authorities, opportunities to widen the use of state/territory agencies for the display, and change of address correspondence for insertion, of enrolment forms. Such activities currently undertaken in some jurisdictions have been inexpensive to implement but very effective. For example, since July 2000 a blank enrolment form has been printed on the back of the Queensland Transport motor vehicle licence change of address form. Nearly 47,000 enrolments were received from this initiative in 2003/04.

Similarly, the AEC will continue to explore the possibility of working with peak bodies and other appropriate service providers that may be able to provide data on movers or assist with enrolment and voting public awareness and the dissemination of such information. To date, initiatives have included approaching real estate agents, removalist companies, teacher and education forums, community and indigenous centres.

Arrangements with Australia Post

The AEC is currently exploring options to expand the use of Australia Post services and facilities. For example, the AEC is about to commence a pilot exercise involving the inclusion of an enrolment form in Australian Post's "Mover's Kit". However, current estimates indicate that a significant return rate of enrolment forms will be required to ensure cost effectiveness.

The AEC recently negotiated an 80% reduction in the cost of Australia Post data used in CRU data matching. Use of Australia Post change of address data has now recommenced after a period of 12 months during which negotiations occurred.

The AEC is also working with Australia Post (and other agencies such as the Public Sector Mapping Authority) in cooperative ventures on an ongoing basis to align addresses in an effort to conform with the Australian addressing standard.

Alternate designs for senate ballot paper

Recommendation 13 of the JSCEM report in to the 2001 election asked for the AEC to consult with the JSCEM on alternate layout designs for the Senate ballot paper. The AEC developed a number of alternative styles that were market tested, but believes further testing is required. A detailed report was submitted to the Chair of the current JSCEM on 5 April 2005.

The AEC would welcome the Committee's views on the alternate designs and a recommendation to undertake further testing, which would require additional funding to proceed.

Attachment A

Copies of HTV Cards

Vote for Kim Beazley and Labor

Health

Labor's New Medicare will cut waiting times in public hospitals with more beds, more doctors, more nurses and new medical technology. Medicare-After-Hours will work around the clock to make sure families have access to the care they need, when they need it.

Education

Kim Beazley has a plan to provide quality education for all Australians—not just the better off.

A Knowledge Nation

Labor has a plan to make Australia a Knowledge Nation, so we can keep new ideas in Australia and make sure our industries can lead the world.

Making the GST simpler and fairer

Labor will take the GST off some essential items to make it fairer and simpler. That's a tax cut for everyone, forever.

Jobs

Labor will give all Australians a fair share of jobs and economic growth—regardless of where you live or what you earn.

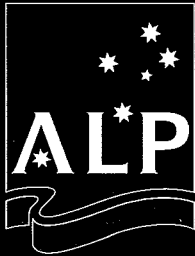
Telstra

Only Labor will keep Telstra in majority public ownership, so all Australians get quality telecommunication services.

I stand for a fair share for all Australians.



Kim Beazley
Labor Leader



www.alp.com

How to Vote for Kim Beazley and Labor in Brand

Green Ballot Paper
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
Brand

*You must
number
every box
on the
Green
Ballot
Paper*

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|
| 1 | BEAZLEY, Kim | ALP |
| 8 | ROBBIE, Steve | |
| 2 | DAVIS, Kate | |
| 7 | McCARTHY, Brian | |
| 5 | IREDALE, Terry | |
| 3 | HUBBARD, Paul | |
| 6 | THOMAS, Margaret | |
| 4 | WOOLLARD, Keith | |



To vote **Labor** in the **Senate**, put a **number 1** in the box headed with the **letter 'P'** on the white ballot paper

P
1
Australian Labor Party

BISHOP, Mark
WEBBER, Ruth
CUOMO, Mark
WAUGH, Gavin

Thinking of voting **Liberal for Forests Green or One Nation**

**.....and you don't want Mr Howard
and MORE of the same :**

MORE

**Environmental Degradation and Land
Clearing**

**Neglect of our hospitals and health
care system**

**Short changing of our schools to give
the wealthy eastern states schools a
\$150 million bonus.**

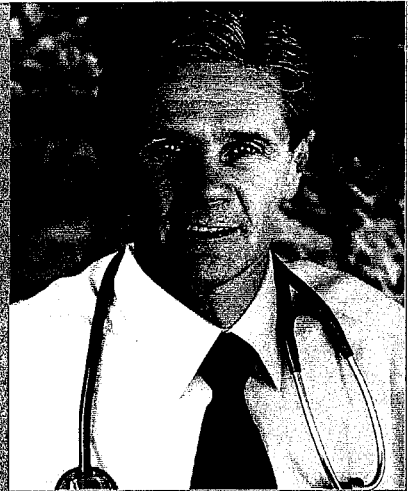
**GST bungling with no relief for small
business or struggling pensioners and
families**

Sale of Telstra

**... then vote for a change
Give Kim Beazley your second preference**

How To Vote for

Dr Keith Woollard



INDEPENDENT



liberals for forests

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Green Ballot Paper

Number every box (1 to 8) to make your vote count

- 7 Beazley
- 8 Robbie
- 6 Davis
- 5 McCarthy
- 4 Iredale
- 3 Hubbard
- 2 Thomas
- 1 **WOOLLARD,**
Dr Keith

Please
return this
card for
recycling

Start here
and work
your own
way up

And in the Senate vote *liberals for forests*

Liz Davenport - BOX J 1

If you make a mistake, ask for another ballot paper.

Authorised by Dr K Woollard 1/6 Acute Court, Rockingham, W.A. 6168 Printed by Parkin Print, 95 Dixon Road, Rockingham WA 6168

HOW TO VOTE for the Senate Vote **1** in TOP box group D

BRAND

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(Small green paper)
You Must Number the boxes
from 1-8 in the order of your
choice

- 8** BEAZLEY, Kim Australian Labor Party
- 3** ROBBIE, Steve One Nation
- 6** DAVIS, Kate Independent
- 4** MCCARTHY, Brian Citizens Electoral Council
- 1** IREDALE, Terry Christian Democratic Party
- 5** HUBBARD, Paul Australian Democrats
- 2** THOMAS, Margaret Liberal
- 7** WOOLLARD, Keith Liberals for Forests



CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

THE SENATE

Vote **1** in the *group D* above the black line
Do not number any other box above
or below the black line

BALLOT PAPER

You may vote in one of two ways

	A	B	C	D	E
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	CITIZEN ELECTORAL COUNCIL
<hr/>					
	A	B	C	D	E
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	CITIZEN ELECTORAL COUNCIL
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				MOSELEY Justin CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				WATTERSON Kerry CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)	

D

1

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)

D

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)

MOSELEY
Justin
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)

WATTERSON
Kerry
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FRED NILE GROUP)

Authorised by G. Gillan, Thombo Printed by Quality Press - Osborne Park

Attention: Matthew Colley



Andrew Murray
WA Senator



Natasha Stott Despoja
Leader

CHANGE POLITICS



Paul Hubbard
BRAND

TO VOTE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS PUT A IN THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS BOX ABOVE THE LINE
OR
NUMBER ALL 46 BOXES BELOW THE LINE, STARTING WITH MURRAY ANDREW

YOU MUST NUMBER EVERY BOX IN YOUR PREFERRED ORDER
TO VOTE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
WITH PREFERENCES



	N <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRESSIVE LABOUR PARTY	O <input type="text" value="1"/> AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	P <input type="checkbox"/> AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY	Q <input type="checkbox"/> THE GREENS (WA)	
M <input type="checkbox"/> ISAACS Clarrie <input type="checkbox"/> WATSON Daniel	N PROGRESSIVE LABOUR PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> LUPI Mary PROGRESSIVE LABOUR PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> WHOOLEY Helen PROGRESSIVE LABOUR PARTY	O AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS <input type="checkbox"/> MURRAY Andrew AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS <input type="checkbox"/> HODGSON Helen AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS <input type="checkbox"/> MEYER Damian AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS	P AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> BISHOP Mark AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> WEBBER Ruth AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> CUOMO Mark AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> WAUGH Gavin Bruce	Q THE GREENS (WA) <input type="checkbox"/> SIEWERT Rachel THE GREENS (WA) <input type="checkbox"/> BELL Lee THE GREENS (WA) <input type="checkbox"/> SMITH Paul THE GREENS (WA) <input type="checkbox"/> ZED Jenna	Ungrouped <input type="checkbox"/> LEE Jennifer INDEPENDENT

TO LABOR

BRAND	
<input type="text" value="4"/>	BEAZLEY, Kim Australian Labor Party
<input type="text" value="8"/>	ROBBIE, Steve Pauline Hanson's One Nation
<input type="text" value="2"/>	DAVIS, Kate The Greens (WA)
<input type="text" value="7"/>	McCARTHY, Brian Citizens Electoral Council
<input type="text" value="6"/>	IREDALE, Terry Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
<input type="text" value="1"/>	HUBBARD, Paul Australian Democrats
<input type="text" value="5"/>	THOMAS, Margaret Liberal
<input type="text" value="3"/>	WOOLLARD, Keith liberals for forests

TO LIBERAL

BRAND	
<input type="text" value="5"/>	BEAZLEY, Kim Australian Labor Party
<input type="text" value="8"/>	ROBBIE, Steve Pauline Hanson's One Nation
<input type="text" value="2"/>	DAVIS, Kate The Greens (WA)
<input type="text" value="7"/>	McCARTHY, Brian Citizens Electoral Council
<input type="text" value="6"/>	IREDALE, Terry Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
<input type="text" value="1"/>	HUBBARD, Paul Australian Democrats
<input type="text" value="4"/>	THOMAS, Margaret Liberal
<input type="text" value="3"/>	WOOLLARD, Keith liberals for forests

Vote

1

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

TM

Please return
this card
for recycling

How to vote Labor across Western Australia

BRAND

- 1 BEAZLEY, Kim ALP
- 8 ROBBIE, Steve
- 2 DAVIS, Kate
- 7 McCARTHY, Brian
- 5 IREDALE, Terry
- 3 HUBBARD, Paul
- 6 THOMAS, Margaret
- 4 WOOLLARD, Keith

CANNING

- 6 MACDONALD, John
- 2 BROWN, Darren
- 1 GERICK, Jane ALP
- 7 DACHEFF, Angelo
- 5 RANDALL, Don
- 4 KENNEDY, Doug
- 3 READ, Keith

COWAN

- 7 HOLT, Ron
- 4 METCALF, Sue
- 3 CHALONER, Tracy
- 2 FORT, Dave
- 6 SHANNON, Andre
- 5 SALMON, Paul
- 1 EDWARDS, Graham ALP

CURTIN

- 5 BUCKLE, Ashley
- 7 GILMOUR, Neil
- 6 BISHOP, Julie
- 1 FOWLER, Trish ALP
- 2 WALKER, Steve
- 3 WOOD, G
- 4 McDONALD, Karen

FORREST

- 8 GIORGI, Alan
- 7 HARVEY, Arthur
- 5 CALDWELL, Charles
- 4 PROSSER, Geoff
- 3 WYLIE, Alison
- 2 LLEWELLYN, Paul
- 6 KIRWAN, Megan
- 1 SMITH, Tresslyn ALP

FREMANTLE

- 7 REYNOLDS, Chris
- 5 SHAVE, Michelle
- 4 HARRIS, Sarah
- 6 SMYTH, Louise
- 2 DELVES, Robert
- 3 SWIFT, Rod
- 1 LAWRENCE, Carmen ALP

HASLUCK

- 8 McLEAN, Ronnie
- 1 JACKSON, Sharryn ALP
- 7 DANIELS, Michael
- 4 RYAN, Terry
- 3 EDMONDS, Luke
- 2 MARKHAM, Peter
- 9 HOPKINSON, James
- 5 HEGARTY, Ros
- 6 CHAN, Bethwyn

KALGOORLIE

- 4 HODDY, Don
- 7 HAASE, Barry
- 1 BROWNING, Paul ALP
- 10 SCOTT, Robin
- 3 MILLER, Laurie
- 8 BURT, Ian
- 2 BUTSON, Clark
- 5 SMITH, Neville
- 9 PAYNE, Callum
- 6 McCUMSTIE, Peter

MOORE

- 4 HENDERSON, Geof
- 3 OLIVER, Clive
- 2 ROY, Andrew
- 6 EVANS, John
- 1 YOUNG, Kim ALP
- 5 WASHER, Mal

O'CONNOR

- 8 TUCKEY, Wilson
- 7 McNABB, Alistair
- 6 PESTANA, Carole
- 5 GYORGY, Stephan
- 4 BROWN, Vicki
- 3 DAVIS, Sandy
- 9 ITURBIDE, Terry Kay
- 10 McLEAN, Ron
- 2 SELBY, Donna
- 1 PENDLEBURY, Mark ALP

PEARCE

- 3 NELSON, Chris
- 4 FOX, Jack
- 5 HILL, Vivian
- 6 MOYLAN, Judi
- 1 COSTELLO, Liam ALP
- 8 COLLINS, Ken
- 7 SMITH, Stuart
- 2 MILLER, Juanita

PERTH

- 3 HEWETT, Aaron
- 2 XAMON, Alison
- 1 SMITH, Stephen ALP
- 6 GILBERTHORPE, Peter
- 5 WEBB, Rod
- 4 CHILTON, Philip

STIRLING

- 3 OLVER, Pat
- 2 AQUILINA, Heather
- 4 JASPER, Perry
- 6 CRONIN, Bob
- 5 McENCROE, Keith John
- 1 McFARLANE, Jann ALP
- 7 THOROGOOD, Keith

SWAN

- 6 MAKIN, Simon
- 3 McCUTCHEON, Paul
- 4 BRENNAN, Bev
- 5 TAPLEY, Colleen
- 8 VINCIULLO, Sandra
- 1 WILKIE, Kim ALP
- 2 JEFFREYS, Elena
- 7 SMITH, Brian

TANGNEY

- 1 GOWEGATI, Sam ALP
- 2 GRAHAM, Gordon A
- 3 STANWIX, Ben
- 4 INGRAM, Andrew
- 8 LUMSDAINE, Aaron
- 5 WILLIAMS, Daryl
- 6 LUCAS, Michael
- 7 WATSON, Craig

SENATE

P

1

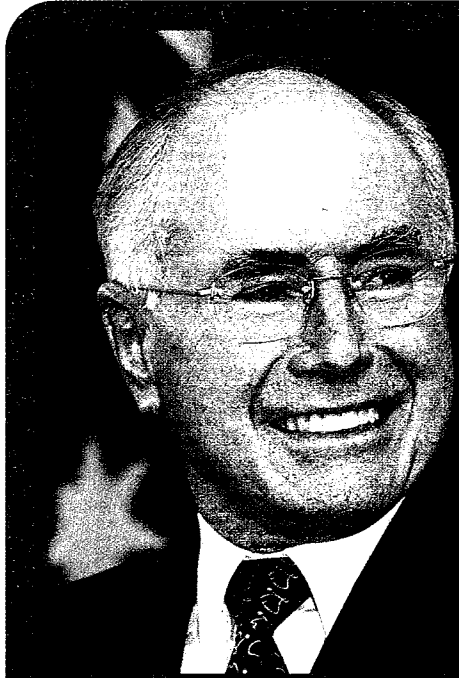
Australian Labor Party

BISHOP, Mark
WEBBER, Ruth
CUOMO, Mark
WAUGH, Gavin





HOW TO VOTE LIBERAL



JOHN HOWARD
Prime Minister

YOU MUST NUMBER EVERY BOX

House of Representatives Green Ballot Paper

- 7 BEAZLEY, K.
- 8 ROBBIE, S.
- 5 DAVIS, K.
- 6 McCARTHY, B.
- 3 IREDALE, T.
- 4 HUBBARD, P.
- 1 **Thomas, Margaret** (Liberal)
- 2 WOOLLARD, K.

On the small green Ballot Paper, for the House of Representatives, you must number every box, as shown



MARGARET THOMAS
Liberal for Brand

HOW TO VOTE LIBERAL IN THE SENATE

You will receive 2 ballot papers. DO NOT use ticks or crosses. If you make a mistake, please ask for a new ballot paper.

NUMBER THIS BOX ONLY

Senate voting is easy. On the white Ballot paper, simply place the number 1 in the Liberal Party box

A		E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
		Liberal	National Party	Unity	Pauline Hanson's One Nation	liberals for Forests		Curtin Labor Alliance		Progressive Labour Party	Australian Democrats	Australian Labor Party	The Greens (WA)	
N	O	N	E	E	D	T	O	C	O	M	P	L	E	T
		Liberal	National Party	Unity	Pauline Hanson's One Nation	liberals for Forests		Curtin Labor Alliance		Progressive Labour Party	Australian Democrats	Australian Labor Party	The Greens (WA)	

KEEP AUSTRALIA IN SAFE HANDS





HOW TO VOTE LIBERAL



IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA ON NOVEMBER 10, 2001

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BRAND	CANNING	COWAN	CURTIN	FORREST	FREMANTLE	HASLUCK	KALGOORLIE
7 BEAZLEY, K.	3 MACDONALD, J.	7 HOLT, R.	4 BUCKLE, A.	8 GIORGI, A.	7 REYNOLDS, C.	5 McLEAN, R.	6 HODDY, D.
8 ROBBIE, S.	4 BROWN, D.	2 METCALF, S.	7 GILMOUR, N.	7 HARVEY, A.	2 SHAVE, M.	8 JACKSON, S.	1 Haase, Barry (Liberal)
5 DAVIS, K.	6 GERICK, J.	4 CHALONER, T.	1 Bishop, Julie (Liberal)	2 CALDWELL, C.	5 HARRIS, S.	6 DANIELS, M.	2 BROWNING, P.
6 McCARTHY, B.	7 DACHEFF, A.	5 FORT, D.	6 FOWLER, T.	1 Prosser, Geoff (Liberal)	3 Smyth, Louise (Liberal)	3 RYAN, T.	10 SCOTT, R.
3 IREDALE, T.	1 Randall, Don (Liberal)	1 Shannon, Andre (Liberal)	5 WALKER, S.	3 WYLIE, A.	4 DELVES, R.	7 EDMONDS, L.	5 MILLER, L.
4 HUBBARD, P.	2 KENNEDY, D.	3 SALMON, P.	3 WOOD, G.	4 LLEWELLYN, P.	3 SWIFT, R.	4 MARKHAM, P.	8 BURT, I.
1 Thomas, Margaret (Liberal)	5 READ, K.	6 EDWARDS, G.	2 McDONALD, K.	5 KIRWAN, M.	6 LAWRENCE, C.	9 HOPKINSON, J.	4 BUTSON, C.
2 WOOLLARD, K.				6 SMITH, T.		2 HEGARTY, R.	3 SMITH, N.
						1 Chan, Bethwyn (Liberal)	7 PAYNE, C.
							2 McCUMSTIE, P.
MOORE	O'CONNOR	PEARCE	PERTH	STIRLING	SWAN	TANGNEY	REMEMBER
3 HENDERSON, G.	1 Tuckey, Wilson (Liberal)	2 NELSON, C.	2 HEWETT, A.	3 OLVER, P.	6 MAKIN, S.	7 GOWEGATI, S.	REMEMBER 1. You will receive two (2) Ballot papers. 2. If you make a mistake, ask for another ballot paper.
2 OLIVER, C.	3 McNABB, A.	4 FOX, J.	3 XAMON, A.	4 AQUILINA, H.	3 McCUTCHEON, P.	4 GRAHAM, G.A.	
4 ROY, A.	4 PESTANA, C.	3 HILL, V.	5 SMITH, S.	5 JASPER, P.	1 Brennan, Bev (Liberal)	6 STANWIX, B.	
6 EVANS, J.	5 GYORGY, S.	1 Moylan, Judi (Liberal)	6 GILBERTHORPE, P.	1 Cronin, Bob (Liberal)	2 TAPLEY, C.	5 INGRAM, A.	
5 YOUNG, K.	2 BROWN, V.	7 COSTELLO, L.	1 Webb, Rod (Liberal)	2 McENCROE, K.J.	8 VINCIULLO, S.	8 LUMSDAINE, A.	
1 Washer, Mal (Liberal)	7 DAVIS, S.	8 COLLINS, K.	4 CHILTON, P.	6 McFARLANE, J.	7 WILKIE, K.	1 Williams, Daryl (Liberal)	
	6 ITURBIDE, T.K.	6 SMITH, S.		7 THOROGOOD, K.	4 JEFFREYS, E.	3 LUCAS, M.	
	10 McLEAN, R.	5 MILLER, J.			5 SMITH, B.	2 WATSON, C.	
	8 SELBY, D.						
	9 PENDLEBURY, M.						

HOW TO VOTE LIBERAL IN THE SENATE

NUMBER THIS BOX ONLY

Put 1 in the LIBERAL box

Do not mark any other box

Senate voting is easy. On the white Ballot paper, simply place the number 1 in the Liberal Party box

A	E	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Liberal	National Party	Unity	Pauline Hanson's One Nation	liberals for Forests		Curtin Labor Alliance		Progressive Labour Party	Australian Democrats	Australian Labor Party	The Greens (WA)
N	O	N	O	C	O	M	P	L	T	H	I	S



KEEP AUSTRALIA IN SAFE HANDS

Attachment B

Copy of Coburg District By-election Report



S T A T E
E L E C T O R A L
O F F I C E

V I C T O R I A

**REPORT ON THE
COBURG DISTRICT
BY-ELECTION**

14 May 1994

5. TRIAL OF VOTER CARDS

At the by-election, the SEO mounted the first Australian trial of voter cards.

The trial was a response by the SEO to the perception that the voting system may lack sufficient safeguards to prevent certain forms of abuse.

The trial was also an attempt to encourage participation in the by-election through ensuring that each Coburg elector received a personally-addressed, official communication about the by-election.

In reaching a decision to conduct a trial of voter cards at the by-election, the SEO was keenly aware of a body of opinion calling for an improved method of voter identification at elections.¹

SHORT-TERM AIMS

The short-term aims of the trial were to test:

- the degree of voter acceptance of a system of voter cards;
- the proportion of electors who brought the cards when they came to vote;
- the speed of voting for those electors who brought their cards, compared with the speed of voting for those electors who did not; and
- the ease with which the cards can be electronically scanned to identify apparent non-voters and any apparent multiple voters.

LONGER-TERM AIMS

The longer term vision could be a voting system in which the only ways to vote are:

- (a) by presenting a voter card; or
- (b) by recording a declaration vote.

In the longer term, voting would be speeded-up for those who brought their voter cards. They would be asked the standard questions and handed ballot-papers in exchange for their voter cards. In the longer term, those who did not produce voter cards could vote, but only by recording a declaration vote.

1. See, for example, the following submissions made to the Inquiry into the Conduct of the 1993 Federal Election conducted by the Commonwealth Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters: 1, 21, 35, 37, 42, 57, 62, 68, 73, 89, 91, 95, 102, 108, 110, 126 and 136. See also the New South Wales Government's Inquiry into the Operations and Processes for the Conduct of State Elections, February 1989 (the "Cundy and Dickson Report").

Voter cards have the potential to reduce the number of staff required in polling places. This is because the time-consuming process of marking each voter's name off the roll would be unnecessary. However, significant reductions in polling place staff numbers would only be achieved if a high proportion of electors vote using voter cards. If a high proportion of electors does not use voter cards, then the staff required to cater for the resulting number of declaration voters would be considerable – and could offset the gains otherwise made.

WHAT OCCURRED AT THE BY-ELECTION

All 33,217 electors on the Coburg District roll were mailed voter cards so as to receive them on the Tuesday or Wednesday before polling day. Each voter received a personally-addressed communication consisting of a window-faced envelope containing the elector's voter card and a leaflet (containing information on polling place locations, hours of voting, and so on). Appendix 4 contains a sample voter card.

There was some publicity in the local newspapers about the voter card trial, and SEO advertisements placed in the local newspapers asked electors to bring their voter cards "to speed-up voting".

On polling day, each polling place was set up:

- (a) with some tables ready to receive electors with voter cards, and
- (b) with some tables ready to receive electors without voter cards.

All tables were set up on an A-Z basis (discussed in Part 6).

The polling officials working at the tables set up to receive voter cards asked the electors the standard questions, received the voter cards, provided ballot-papers (and then passed the voter cards to a back-up table where officials marked the electors' names off the roll – to fulfil legislative requirements).

The officials working at the tables set up for electors who did not bring their cards simply asked the standard questions and marked the electors' names off the roll in the normal manner.

As will be apparent, the trial had two systems of voting in operation simultaneously: the "new" and the "old". The Coburg trial was not, therefore, a trial of a fully-fledged voter card (and declaration vote) system.

THE RESULTS

Overall voter turnout was 28,245 (85.03 per cent).

Voter turnout on polling day was 26,766 (80.58 per cent) of total enrolled electors.

The voter cards were widely used. Of the 26,766 electors who voted on polling day:

23,168	(86.56 %)	voted with voter cards, and
3,598	(13.44 %)	voted without voter cards.

The voting summary is as follows:

Enrolment: 33,217

26,766	(80.58%)	of electors voted on polling day
74	(0.22%)	of electors voted absentee (hospital voting) or by section vote on polling day
1,405	(4.23%)	of electors voted by post before polling day
455	(1.37%)	voter cards sent to electors were returned to the SEO "not known at this address, return to sender" etc.
300	(0.9%)	voter cards were handed in at polling places on polling day by family / friends of voter card recipients who reported that the recipients were unable to vote (e.g. overseas, interstate, ill etc.)
4,217	(12.7%)	of electors did not vote (apart from those whose voter cards were returned to the SEO or whose voter cards were handed in at polling places)
<hr/>		
33,217	(100%)	

Electors readily accepted the voter cards. This is borne out by:

- the observations of officers-in-charge of polling places;
- the observations of SEO staff who worked in each of the fifteen polling places on polling day; and
- results from an exit poll of voters, commissioned by the SEO and conducted by a market research firm at three polling places.

Voters with voter cards found voting quicker and easier than would otherwise have been the case. Officers-in-charge of polling places consistently praised the voter cards because voters with the cards could be dealt with speedily. Electors who brought their cards did not have to wait while polling officials located their names and addresses on the roll. This proved to be a particular benefit for electors who were not fluent in English and for those electors whose names may have presented spelling difficulties for the polling officials. A voter card system therefore appears to have potential for reducing the number of polling officials required on election day – but as mentioned earlier, only if a large majority of electors brings their cards.

Voter cards used at the trial were bar-coded so they could later be electronically scanned. Reports generated by the scanning process would then indicate apparent non-voters and any apparent multiple voters. In the event, due to technical factors, it was impractical to scan the voter cards handed in on election day. Apparent non-voters were therefore identified using a manual mark-back method. No apparent multiple voters were identified. The technical problems which prevented the cards being electronically scanned are capable of solution. The technical issues would not, of themselves, prevent a further trial of voter cards being undertaken.

Use of voter cards appears to have increased voter turnout, perhaps by as much as five per cent. Particularly at a by-election when there may be little "election noise" around, voter cards communicate in a direct and official way with electors, informing them that:

- a by-election will be held on the date specified;
- they are on the roll for the by-election, and
- they have to vote.

Uncertainty about whether electors are within the electorate is reduced, if not eliminated.

Appendix 6 sets out the considerations leading to the view that the introduction of voter cards appears to have increased voter turnout by as much as five per cent.

ISSUES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

During the trial, the SEO kept representatives of the three main political parties informed. Representatives of the parties participated in a tour of polling places on election morning to observe the trial first-hand, and they also participated in a post-election discussion of voter cards.

Interstate electoral offices and the Australian Electoral Commission have shown interest in the trial and discussions have been held with them.

The following issues have been identified as requiring further consideration:

1. The reliability of mechanised insertion of voter cards into envelopes

An unexpected problem surfaced at the by-election. Some ten or twelve electors received two voter cards in their envelopes, instead of one.

This occurred because of a fault in the mechanised method used by the mailing house contracted by the SEO for inserting voter cards into envelopes. In short, on some ten or twelve occasions during the mechanised insertion of 33,217 voter cards into 33,217 envelopes, two cards were inserted into one envelope (and no card into the subsequent envelope).

The problem became evident when electors who received two cards contacted the SEO. The Returning Officer arranged to collect the second card from each of these electors and deliver it to the intended recipient.

The problem here is a quality assurance one. In any further trial of voter cards, the SEO would need to be convinced by the mailing house arranging the mailout that its quality assurance procedures would prevent such a problem occurring.

2. The reliability of the postal system

For a voter card system to operate effectively at a Victorian State election, the postal system would have to be able to deliver 2.9 million voter cards accurately and on time (there being 2.9 million electors on the roll of electors for Victoria). To maximise the number of electors who brought the cards with them when they went to vote, the best time for the voter cards to be delivered would almost certainly be during the week before polling day.

At a State election, if a mere one per cent of voter cards were not delivered accurately, or were not delivered on time, there could be some 29,000 electors querying – or complaining – about the electoral system. Dealing with such queries, or complaints, shortly before election day could prove a major distraction for an electoral office. In addition, if there were such a volume of queries, or complaints, confidence in the electoral system could be reduced.

This issue requires discussion with Australia Post.

3. The possibility of theft of voter cards from post boxes

Assuming voter cards are delivered correctly and on time, there is the possibility of cards being stolen from letter boxes.

Assessing whether this is more than a theoretical risk probably requires discussions with Australia Post, the Victoria Police, and perhaps others (such as banks which mail-out valuable items – such as credit cards – to customers).

4. **The extent to which voter cards might prompt certain individuals to vote fraudulently**

A view put by some party officials is that voter cards may prompt fraudulent voting that would not otherwise occur. On this view, if any voter cards fell into the wrong hands, they might prompt certain individuals to vote with them. This might be done to avoid a fine for a friend who is away (multiple-voting of a so-called "innocent" kind), or in a direct attempt to affect the result in a close election.

The view is put that while it is currently possible for an individual to multiple-vote by impersonating another or others, the risk of this happening may be increased with the advent of voter cards. The argument is that an individual who would not otherwise think of impersonating an elector and multiple-voting may be tempted to do so – and may do so – if the voting card of another comes into the individual's possession.

Of course, impersonating another voter and multiple-voting are offences. The question for further consideration is whether a system of voter cards will reduce the risk of multiple voting, or, contrary to the objectives of such a system, increase them.

5. **Admission of declaration votes**

In a fully-fledged voter card system in which those who did not bring their voter cards to polling places could vote – but only by recording declaration votes – a question of theoretical and practical importance arises:

- should an elector's declaration vote be admitted to the count only if electronic scanning of voter cards (carried out immediately after the close of polling) indicated no ordinary vote had been recorded for the elector, or
- should an elector's declaration vote be admitted even if scanning (carried out immediately after the close of polling) indicated an ordinary vote had been recorded by the elector?

The theory underpinning a fully-fledged voter card system would suggest that a declaration vote received from Z should be rejected if electronic scanning of voter cards – carried out immediately after the close of polling – indicated that Z had already voted. A voter card system is, after all, designed to prevent an individual multiple-voting. On the face of it, if Z's voter card is received at a polling place, and if a declaration vote is also received from Z, it appears that Z is attempting to multiple-vote and the declaration vote should be rejected.

The reality, however, may be different. Z's voter card may have come into the possession of Y who has fraudulently used it to cast a vote. When Z fails to receive his voter card prior to polling day, he records a declaration vote on election day (declaring truthfully that he has not

received his voter card, and has not voted previously in the election). If Z's declaration vote is rejected because Z has already been identified as having voted (because of the presence of Z's voter card), the result is that a fraudulent vote is in the count, and a genuine vote is rejected.

The alternative, on this scenario, is that a fraudulent vote is in the count, and as well, Z's genuine vote is admitted to the count (on the basis of Z's declaration being accepted).

It can be noted that under current Victorian electoral law and practice, declaration votes for section 190 voters (name already marked off the roll) are admitted, even if the relevant voters' names are marked on the roll as having voted. The accepted view is that the declarations should be accepted at face value, bearing in mind that the markings on the roll against the relevant voters' names are generally the result of polling official error (e.g. marking off the wrong name when there are two identical names, one following the other, on the roll). At any given election, there are very few section 190 declarations.

It can be noted that if the electronic scanning of voter cards received at polling places on election day were to be introduced in an attempt to improve the integrity of the voting process, the scanning would need to take place immediately after the close of polling – as part of the scrutiny process. A consequence of introducing the electronic scanning of voter cards immediately after the close of polling would be a delay in the determination of election results, particularly in close electorates.

As will be apparent, there are several issues which require further consideration.

6. Postal voting and a voter card system

At the by-election, postal voting commenced on 22 April 1994, the day nominations closed.

Voter cards were delivered to Coburg electors on 10 and 11 May 1994, the Tuesday and Wednesday before polling day. Inevitably, a number of electors had already voted by post by the time their voter cards arrived. Several of these electors contacted the returning officer's office to ask what they should do with their voter cards. They were advised to destroy their cards.

If voter cards were trialled again, the SEO would probably include the following message on the voter cards: "If you have already voted by post, please destroy your voter card".

7. Questions to be asked of voters who bring their voter cards

On presenting their voter cards, some electors were unsure as to why they were being asked their name and address, pointing out that these matters were on their cards. One view might be that an appropriate question would be: "Is this your voter card?" However, the SEO is inclined to the view that retaining the standard questions – including what is your name and address? – builds in an important safeguard.

CONCLUSION

At this point, legislative changes will not be recommended to enable the introduction of voter cards at the next State election. As will be apparent, several issues require further consideration, including the security and reliability of the postal system.

It can be noted that the Commonwealth Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters received a number of submissions on voter cards in its inquiry into the conduct of the 1993 Federal election. The Committee concluded that the expense of introducing a voter card system (in the context of Federal elections) was not warranted. (See: The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, *The 1993 Federal Election: Report of the Inquiry into the Conduct of the 1993 Federal Election and Matters Related Thereto*, November 1994, AGPS, pages 38-39).

It can also be noted that while there was clear acceptance of the voter cards by electors and polling officials, State officials from both the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party do not favour voter cards. Their views may be summarised as follows:

- (a) there is little, if any, evidence of voting fraud and there is no widespread perception that the voting system is open to abuse – hence there is no need for a measure such as voter cards;
- (b) voter cards may well prompt certain individuals to vote fraudulently by impersonating others whose voter cards they have obtained;
- (c) for a variety of reasons, some voter cards will not be delivered correctly, causing confusion amongst those who do not receive them and possibly deterring some of these people from voting; and
- (d) declaration voting will be a considerable inconvenience – and an imposition – for those who lose their voter cards, or forget to bring them.

While State officials from the ALP and the Liberal Party do not favour voter cards, State officials from the National Party appear to have reserved their position.

As mentioned, in all the circumstances, legislative changes to enable the introduction of voter cards will not be recommended at present.

**APPENDIX 4:
SAMPLE VOTER CARD**

GIANCARLO TOGNAZZI
14 RIDGEWAY RD
COBURG 3058

NOTICE

The card below is your voter card for the Coburg by-election being held on Saturday, 14 May. Voting is compulsory.

Please take this voter card with you when you go to vote and hand it to a polling official.

Taking your voter card will make voting faster.

If you lose your card, or forget to take it with you, you must still go to a polling place to vote at the by-election.

If you have any inquiries about the voter card, please ring 383 2732.

Dr. G.P. Lyons
Electoral Commissioner

STATE ELECTORAL OFFICE

Detach card here.

STATE ELECTORAL OFFICE
VOTER CARD

COBURG BY-ELECTION: SATURDAY, 14 MAY 1994

TOGNAZZI

Giancarlo _____ 14 Ridgeway Rd, Cobg

This is your voter card for the Coburg by-election on Saturday, 14 May 1994.



Please take it with you when you go to vote.

This card is not transferable.

Please do not fold or bend this card.

Detach card here.

**APPENDIX 5:
PRESS STATEMENT,
2 MAY 1994**

VOTER CARD TO BE TRIALLED AT COBURG BY-ELECTION

A new voter card aimed at making the voting process easier and quicker is to be trialled by the State Electoral Office at the Coburg by-election on May 14.

The card, which carries details of the voter's name and address, is confirmation that the voter is currently on the Coburg electoral roll. The card also carries a unique bar code for each voter. After the election, the cards will be electronically scanned to identify non-voters.

A voter presenting his/her card at a polling place on May 14 will not have to queue to have his/her name checked manually on the voting roll. Rather the card will give the voter access to an 'express lane' service for ballot papers.

The Electoral Commissioner in Victoria, Dr. Greg Lyons, said today that the card was designed to ease congestion and queues at polling places.

"Every person currently on the Coburg electoral roll* will receive a personalised voter card by mail in the week prior to May 14.

"By presenting their voter card at a polling place on election day, they can be 'fast-tracked', immediately receiving their ballot paper to complete.

"Of course, those who do not wish to use the fast-track system, or who forget to bring their voter card on the day, will as in previous elections have their name verified on the electoral roll before receiving their ballot paper", Dr. Lyons said.

"Let me emphasise that no-one will be disadvantaged or turned away at a polling place for not presenting a voter card. Those with voter cards will just be in and out quicker", he added.

Coburg will be the first time at either the State or Commonwealth level that the voter card has been trialled.

"We are obviously keen to see whether voters will use the card and the fast-track service it offers", Dr. Lyons said.

Whether a voter's name is verified by voter card or manually against the electoral rolls, the system preserves the integrity and secrecy of the voter's ballot.

"Let me quickly allay any concerns on this account. An individual's voter card, which carries the same personal details as the electoral roll, cannot be linked in any way to the ballot cast by that individual. The bar code on the card simply enables the State Electoral Office to verify that a voter has presented at a polling place", Dr. Lyons stressed.

The trialling of the voter card is a natural extension of the 'acknowledgement card' system which has been in operation for many years.

"At the time of a voter's first enrolment on the electoral roll and thereafter each time he or she moves and must re-enrol in another electorate, it has been a long-standing practice to send an acknowledgement card to the voter confirming his or her inclusion on the electoral roll for a particular electorate.

"Given that electoral boundaries change from time to time, some voters may be a little confused about which electorate they are in. The voter card is a timely extension of the acknowledgement card procedure and will serve to iron out any uncertainty about a voter's electorate."

If the Coburg and any subsequent trials of the voter card are successful, it may be considered for inclusion at future State elections.

"In theory, voter cards would be issued to all voters on the electoral roll just prior to each election. It would be an up-to-date confirmation of their entitlement to vote in a particular electorate and would give them access to the 'fast-track' service at polling places", explained Dr. Lyons.

For the State Electoral Office, the advantages of the voter card system are two-fold. It will help maintain the voter roll efficiently and will also protect the integrity of the voter system.

"For voters, this is a practical way of making voting easier on the day. It ensures that you can get in and out of the polling place with a minimum of time and fuss, and for most people with busy Saturday schedules, that will be a bonus", said Dr. Lyons.

** The total number of voters on the Coburg roll stands at 33,217. The new voter card is similar to an airline boarding pass in size.*

APPENDIX 6: IMPACT OF VOTER CARDS ON VOTER TURN-OUT

A State Electoral Office objective at every election is to maximise voter turn-out. At the Coburg by-election, 85.03% of the electors voted – the highest by-election turn-out since the Shepparton by-election of 1991. It appears that this relatively high turn-out can be attributed to the use of voter cards.

Factors generally accepted as affecting turn-out at by-elections include:

- whether the electorate is country or metropolitan (country by-elections traditionally have higher turn-outs);
- whether both major parties in the area are standing candidates;
- the degree of media attention given to the by-election;
- whether the electorate is safe or marginal;
- the extent of the State Electoral Office's voter information campaign;
- special issues, such as whether the by-election result will affect the balance of power in Parliament, or major local issues;
- the range and profile of the candidates; and
- the weather on election day.

The following table shows the voter turnout at each Victorian by-election for the last ten years, together with comments on factors considered to have affected the voter turnout.

By-Election	Date	Percentage of Electors Voting	Comments
North Eastern (LC)	2.2.85	85.01%	Country electorate; no ALP candidate; minimal voter information campaign.
Nunawading (LC)	17.8.85	88.51%	Marginal metropolitan electorate; large range of candidates; very extensive media attention; result decided balance of power in Legislative Council.
Central Highlands (LC)	21.3.87	86.31%	Marginal, mixed country and metropolitan electorate; reasonable media attention; result decided balance of power in Legislative Council; extensive SEO voter information campaign.
Kew (LA)	19.3.88	81.40%	Safe metropolitan electorate; fairly wide range of candidates; reasonable media attention.
Ballarat North (LA)	23.7.88	89.86%	Country electorate; fairly wide range of candidates; extensive local media attention.
Rodney (LA)	4.3.89	88.14%	Safe country electorate; no ALP candidate; reasonable local media attention.
Greensborough (LA)	15.4.89	90.25%	Marginal metropolitan electorate; large range of candidates; concentrated media attention.
Thomastown (LA)	3.2.90	90.76%	Safe metropolitan electorate; large range of candidates; extensive media attention.
Shepparton (LA)	19.10.91	87.13%	Safe country electorate; no ALP candidate; reasonable local media attention.
Doutta Galla (LC)	20.2.93	78.75%	Safe metropolitan electorate; no Liberal candidate; minimal media attention.
Doutta Galla (LC)	18.9.93	77.84%	Safe metropolitan electorate; no Liberal candidate and only one low-profile independent candidate in addition to the winning candidate; minimal media attention.
Broadmeadows (LA)	18.9.93	81.43%	Safe metropolitan electorate; no Liberal candidate; reasonable media attention because ALP candidate was ALP leader.
Coburg (LA)	14.5.94	85.03%	Safe metropolitan electorate; no Liberal candidate; minimal media attention; SEO introduced voter cards.

At the Coburg by-election, there were several factors tending to reduce the turn-out. First, there was no Liberal candidate, which meant that Liberal supporters may have felt there was no one they could vote for. Second, the by-election received very little coverage in the metropolitan media, and not much more in local newspapers. Third, the weather was wet and cold on the morning of the by-election, which probably deterred some electors from venturing outdoors.

The Coburg by-election can be most usefully compared to the three previous by-elections, in 1993. At each by-election there was no Liberal candidate. The two Dousta Galla by-elections, like Coburg, received limited media coverage. (The better turn-out at Broadmeadows was probably largely the result of the relatively high profile of the Labor candidate, Mr Brumby.) The State Electoral Office's voter information campaign was very similar in all four by-elections, with the exception of the delivery of the voter cards for Coburg. As the voter cards were the only new element in the Coburg by-election, it appears safe to conclude that the delivery of a personally-addressed card to each elector was responsible for the increased turn-out by some five percentage points, or 1,700 votes.

Attachment C

Political Party Registration – State and Territory Requirements

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
<p>Commonwealth <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be either a parliamentary party or a non-parliamentary party <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a parliamentary party is one which has at least one member who is a Member of the Commonwealth Parliament. An MP cannot support the registration of more than one party – must resign from the 1st to register the 2nd - a non-parliamentary party is one which has at least 500 members who are entitled to be enrolled on the Commonwealth electoral roll. A person can be a member of more than one party but cannot be used to support the registration of more than one party • must be established on the basis of a written constitution • must have as its one of its objects or activities to endorse candidates to contest federal elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • party name: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more than 6 words - is obscene - is name, abbreviation or acronym of another unrelated party - so nearly resembles name, abbreviation or acronym of unrelated party that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that party - suggests a connection or relationship exists with a registered party when it does not - comprises words 'Independent Party' or 'Independent' plus name, abbreviation or acronym of a recognised political party or 'Independent' plus a name that so nearly resembles name, abbreviation or acronym of a recognised political party that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be made to the AEC • for a parliamentary party be made by secretary or all the members who are members of the Commonwealth Parliament • for a non-parliamentary party be made by 10 members of the party including the secretary • set out the proposed name of the party and any abbreviation • set out name and address of proposed registered officer • for a non-parliamentary party include a list of at least 500 party members • state whether the party wishes to receive public funding • set out names, addresses and party positions of persons making application • be accompanied by copy of the party's constitution • be accompanied by \$500 non-refundable fee • application may be varied where AEC thinks it would be required to refuse application in its lodged form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEC checks application to ensure that it has been properly made • application is to be advertised in Commonwealth Gazette and a newspaper circulating generally in each State/Territory • advert has to invite objections. Objections can only be based on party not meeting "eligible" political party criteria, application not made in accordance with the Act, name of party is disqualified (see disqualification column). Objections must be lodged within 1 month of advert and provided to applicant party who has right of response. Objections and responses available for public inspection • notification of the decision must be given to applicant party and any objectors to the application. The party & objectors may appeal the decision • different levels of a party may be registered (eg State branches) • applications, and certain changes to Register, cannot be processed during election period (issue to return of writ) • Register of Political Parties is publicly available. Register must set out name of party, abbreviated name (if any), name & address of registered officer, whether party wishes to receive public funding • Details in Register may be changed by appropriate application and, for certain changes, payment of \$500 fee. Certain requests for change have to be gazetted & advertised and objections may be made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • voluntary – in writing from appropriate person(s) • party has been registered for more than 4 years and has not endorsed a candidate in that time • 4 years have passed since last election at which a candidate was endorsed • party is no longer a parliamentary party and has fewer than 500 members • party has ceased to exist • party is a non-parliamentary party which has ceased to have at least 500 members • a parent party has successfully objected to the continued use of a similar party name by a 2nd party and the 2nd party is not related to the parent party and has not satisfactorily changed its name within 1 month • the party fails to comply with a notice of review of the party's eligibility for continued registration (the AEC has the power to review the Register of Political Parties to determine the continued eligibility of parties to remain registered) • in all but voluntary deregistration, the AEC must be give notice of intention to deregister and allow one month for the party to respond. In certain cases there is a right of appeal against deregistration

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
<p>NSW <i>Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A political party with at least 750 members on State roll & not used to qualify another party • A fee of \$2000 <p>Written constitution which includes the objective of endorsing candidates to contest State elections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Party name or abbreviation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than six words - Obscene or offensive - The name, abbreviation, acronym; or derivative of a registered party or a party currently in NSW parliament - So nearly resembles name, abbreviation or acronym of registered party or a party currently in NSW parliament that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that name, abbreviation or acronym - Contains the word 'independent party' or 'independent' &: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - name, abbreviation or acronym of a registered party or one currently in NSW parliament - matter that is likely to be confused with or mistaken for another registered political party or party currently in NSW parliament • Particulars set out or documents accompanying application are incomplete or incorrect • Party members used for qualifying purposes for more than one party • Commissioner will advise of application's refusal and applicant will be given 30 days to amend application to be dealt with again. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodged to Electoral Commissioner by party secretary • Set out party name (& abbreviation) • Name & address of person who is to be registered officer • Name & address of person (if any) who is to be deputy registered officer • Address of party headquarters • Copy of party's constitution • Names & addresses of 750 members who are electors on NSW roll & on whom the party relies for purpose of qualifying to be an eligible party • Original declarations of membership of party (on prescribed form) completed & signed • State whether party wishes to be registered for the purposes of the <i>Election Funding Act 1981</i> • Other particulars as are required by the regulations or approved form of application • A fee of \$2000 (cash, bankers cheque, EFTPOS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties must be registered 12 months prior to a State election. (Registration entitlements are not valid until the first anniversary of registration.) • On receipt of application the Electoral Commissioner places a public notice in one or more newspapers circulating throughout NSW, detailing the application. Objections may be lodged within 14 days after the publication of the notice • Following decision that party should be registered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name of party (& abbreviation) are entered in the Register; - Particulars or documents as set out & accompanied application for registration of party are included, & form part of register • Registration cannot occur after the issue of the writ and before polling day for that election 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written request of registered officer of party • Party has ceased to exist • Party no longer an eligible party • Party has not endorsed one candidate at a State election since registration • Registration obtained by fraud or misrepresentation <p>Electoral Commissioner advises registered officer of intention to deregister party and subsequently publishes a notice of cancellation in the <i>Gazette</i>; the name and particulars of party are removed from the Register.</p>

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION (as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
<p>VIC <i>Electoral Act 2002</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a written constitution that sets out aims of party, an objective of which is to promote the election of a member of the party to parliament • Have at least 500 members who are Victorian electors and not members of another registered political party or a political party applying for registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied for registration in the previous 6 months and been refused • If party name: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprises more than six words - Is obscene - Is not a proper abbreviation of the name of the political party - Is the name of another registered political party - So nearly resembles the name of another registered political party that it is likely to be confused with, or mistaken for, that name - Comprises the words 'independent party' or comprises or contains the word 'independent' and the name of a registered political party, or so nearly resembles the name of a registered political party that it is likely to be confused with, or mistaken for, that name. <p>A deregistered party or a party that has a name that so nearly resembles that of a deregistered party so as likely to cause confusion or be mistaken for the deregistered party, cannot register until after the general election that first occurs following the deregistration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodged at Victorian Electoral Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be in writing, signed by the secretary of the political party - Set out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the name of the political party (ii) name and address of the registered officer of the political party - Be accompanied by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a copy of the constitution of the political party (ii) a statutory declaration made by the secretary stating that at least 500 members of the party are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electors; - Members within the rules of the political party; - Not members of another registered political party or of a political party applying for registration (iii) a list, in a form determined by the Commission, of the names and addresses of at least 500 members of the political party who meet the requirements set out above (iv) a fee of 50 fee units (\$524.50 at July 2005) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission publishes a notice of application for registration of a political party in the <i>Gazette</i> and in metropolitan newspapers; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - setting out particulars contained in the party's application - inviting any person who believes the application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not relate to an eligible political party - has a defect (s45 of Act) - should be refused because the proposed name is not allowable (s47 of Act) <p>to submit written objection within 30 days after publication of notice. Including signature & person's address.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of objections are sent to party applying for registration to respond within 14 days. Response is made available for inspection at Commission. • If registration refused, the Commission must give written notice to applicant stating reasons for refusal. • Where the Commission is of the opinion that an application does not comply with requirements of the Act, but that the applicant might be prepared to vary it so as to make it acceptable, the Commission will send out a notice setting out the reasons for the Commission's opinion and the further steps the applicant can take. The applicant has 45 days to respond in writing after receiving the notice. <p>When the Commission decides to register a party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name of the political party, including initials and abbreviations and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary on receipt of written application signed by registered officer • Party has not endorsed at least one candidate for an election held within the last 5 years • Party has failed within 30 days to comply with a request to provide the Commission with information and documents required for a review <p>If the second two conditions apply, the Commission deregisters the party and, immediately prior to deregistration, notifies in writing the person who was the registered officer of the deregistration. The Commission must also publish a notice of deregistration in the <i>Gazette</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Party has ceased to exist; ceased to have at least 500 eligible members or registration was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation <p>On the above, the Commission notifies the political party in writing of the consideration to deregister it and publishes a notice in the <i>Gazette</i> of the intention. The party then has one month to respond in accordance with the Act to state why deregistration should not occur. If no statement is lodged or the statement is rejected the Commission deregisters the party, giving the person who was the last registered officer written notification of the deregistration, and publishes a notice in the <i>Gazette</i>.</p>

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name and address of the registered officer are entered into the register • Written notice is given to the party about its registration and to any person who objected to the application • Notice of party registration published in <i>Government Gazette</i> • Between the issue and return of the writ for an election (including by-elections) all outstanding applications for party registration will be suspended • The Commission may review the registration of a political party from time to time, and must review the registration of a political party as soon as practicable after an election if the party obtained an average of less than 4% of the first preference votes over all electorates contested by the party • A registered political party must apply for re-registration not later than 30 June 2006, and subsequently in the two-month period commencing 27 months before the next scheduled general election. If a party misses the two-month window, it cannot apply for re-registration until six months later. The re-registration process is identical to the initial registration process 	

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
<p>QLD <i>Electoral Act 1992</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a written constitution that sets out the aims of the party; • Must have at least 500 members who are electors (that is, on the electoral roll for an address in Queensland) or one member who is a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly; and • Must have as one of its objectives the promotion of the election to the Queensland Legislative Assembly of a candidate or candidates endorsed by it. • Constitution must be a complying constitution as defined in the Act and contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The party's objects, 1 of which must be the promotion of the election to the Legislative Assembly of a candidate or candidates endorsed by it or by a body or organisation of which it forms a part; - The procedure for amending the constitution; - The rules for membership of the party, which must include the following rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the procedure for accepting a person as a member; (ii) the procedure for ending a person's membership; (iii) prohibiting a person from becoming a member of the party if the person has been convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence within 10 years before the person applies to become a member 	<p>The Commission cannot register a political party if the proposed party name and abbreviation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is more than 6 words; - Is obscene or offensive; - Is a party name (that is, the name of a party which is a registered political party); - so nearly resembles a party name that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that party name; - includes the word 'Independent'; - would otherwise be likely to cause confusion if registered. <p>The Commission may refuse registration if the proposed party name is a public body name or so nearly resembles a public body name that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for the public body name.</p> <p>If registration is refused, Commission must give proposed registered officer written notice of refusal, reasons for refusal and rights to have the refusal decision reviewed.</p>	<p>An application must be made by the party secretary in writing, in a form approved by the Commission.</p> <p>The following details are to be set out in the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Party name; - Abbreviation of the party name for use on ballot papers (optional); - Name and address of the person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) who is to be the registered officer of the party (ii) making the application. <p>It must be signed by both the secretary and the proposed registered officer.</p> <p>Application must be accompanied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A copy of the party's constitution; - A membership list (unless the party has at least one member who is a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly) showing the names and addresses of at least 500 party members who are electors; - A copy of the application for party membership of each person shown on the membership list; - A copy of documentary evidence of acceptance of membership applications (in accordance with the party's constitution); - If the application for registration is made more than one year after a person's application for party membership, a copy of a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On receipt, application is checked to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It meets the technical requirements of the Act, - It contains the required information, - It has been signed by secretary and registered officer, and - The membership list, documentation of membership and constitution have been provided. <p>Membership bona fides are checked and compared to the party's constitutional requirements.</p> <p>Constitution is checked to ensure that it is a complying constitution.</p> <p>For non-parliamentary parties, members' enrolments are checked on RMANS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the Commission is satisfied that the party meets the eligibility criteria, a notice is published in the <i>Government Gazette</i> and the <i>Courier-Mail</i> inviting any person who objects to the party being registered to lodge an objection with the Commission within one month of the date of the Gazette notice. <p>Copies of objections are forwarded to the proposed registered officer for the party's response. Objection and response are available for public inspection at the Commission's office.</p> <p>During the period allowed for receipt of objections, the Commission writes to members identified as being on the electoral roll, seeking confirmation of their</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By written request of the party's registered officer; • If it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the party no longer exists; - the party is not a Queensland parliamentary party and does not have at least 500 members who are electors; - the party has not endorsed at least one candidate at the two general elections following registration; - the registration was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation; - if the party's registered officer fails to comply with the quarterly reporting requirements or gives false or misleading information in those reports. <p>The Commission must cancel a party's registration if the party's constitution is not a complying constitution (applies to parties on the Register as at 6 June 2002 only and is mandatory).</p> <p>If the Commission proposes to cancel the registration of a party (other than on the grounds of registration having been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation) the Commission will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a written notice to the registered officer; and • Publish a notice in the <i>Government Gazette</i> and <i>The Courier Mail</i> stating the intention to cancel a party's registration. • Any person may give written notice to the Commission of their objection to the proposed cancellation within 14 days of the date of the Gazette notice. <p>The Commission must take any objections received into account prior</p>

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
	<p>(iv) prohibiting a person from continuing as a member of the party if the person is convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence;</p> <p>- A statement about how the party manages its internal affairs, including a statement about:</p> <p>(i) the party structure; and</p> <p>(ii) the process for dispute resolution;</p> <p>- The rules for selecting:</p> <p>(i) a person to hold an office in the party;</p> <p>(ii) a candidate to be endorsed by the party for a State election or an election for a local government;</p> <p>A rule requiring that a pre-selection ballot must satisfy the general principles of free and democratic elections as set out in the Act.</p>		<p>document showing that the person's membership is current at the time the application for registration is made; and</p> <p>- A list of associated entities of the party.</p> <p>If the party is a Parliamentary party, the application must be accompanied by:</p> <p>- The name and address of the party member who is a member of the Legislative Assembly (in lieu of the membership list); and</p> <p>- Documentary evidence of the party membership of the MP.</p>	<p>party membership.</p> <p>After the end of the one month objection period, Commission decides whether party should be registered: Objections received, the party's response to them, membership response rates, number of members found on the electoral roll and the party's constitution will be taken into account.</p> <p>If registered, the party's application and constitution are placed on the public record.</p> <p>A notice of registration is published in the next available <i>Government Gazette</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The registered officer is given written advice that the party has been entered in the <i>Register of Political Parties</i> and any person who lodged an objection to the party's application is also advised in writing and given reasons for the rejection of their submission. <p>Written advice setting out the reasons for the failure of an application will be sent to the proposed registered officer of the party.</p> <p>Decisions to register or refusal to register a political party are reviewable decisions under the <i>Electoral Act 1992</i>. Any person affected by the decision may make an application to review a reviewable decision.</p> <p>No action in relation to an application can be taken during the election period (day after issue of writ to 6.00 pm on polling day).</p>	<p>to taking further action in relation to the cancellation.</p> <p>If, after considering all objections the Commission decides to cancel the registration of a party, the Commission must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give notice of cancellation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to the registered officer, with the reasons for it; in the <i>Gazette</i> Remove the party and documents relating to it from the <i>Register of Political Parties</i>. <p>All documents relating to the party's registration and the cancellation remain in the Commission's records.</p> <p><u>Quarterly Reports</u></p> <p>Once registered, the registered officer is required to notify the Commission of any changes made to the party's constitution within 7 days after each report date (The end of each quarter). Failure to do so is grounds for cancellation of registration.</p>

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
<p>WA <i>Electoral Act 1907</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A party in existence on 14 June 2000 and which had at least one member in the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council on that day • A political party with at least 500 members who are electors (including members of related parties when one is part of the other, or both are parts of the same political party) • A constitution that specifies as one of its objects or activities the promotion of election to the State Parliament a candidate or candidates endorsed by it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Electoral Commissioner may refuse to register if he/she believes on reasonable grounds that the information or documents accompanying the application are incorrect • The Electoral Commissioner is to register a political party if the party's application name: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has more than 6 words - is obscene & offensive - is the name, abbreviation or acronym of the name of an existing party (does not apply if the existing party is related to the party in respect of which the application is made) - so nearly resembles the name/ abbreviation/acronym of the name of an existing party that is likely to be confused with that name/ abbreviation/acronym - contains the word 'royal' or 'independent' - would otherwise cause confusion if registered - if the application name is/resembles a public body name or is likely to be confused with the public body name - if the Electoral Commissioner believes that a substantial proportion of the electors included in the application have also been provided by another unrelated political party for registration or continued registration • If the Electoral Commissioner must refuse an application, but is of the opinion that the application may be varied in such a way as to enable registration, he/she must give written notice of that opinion, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodged with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form by the secretary of the party stating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - name of political party - abbreviation of name on ballot paper for elections if wished - name and address of secretary of party - names and addresses of at least 500 members of the party who are electors - a copy of the party's constitution - any other prescribed information • Applications for registration are to be determined in the order in which they are received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On receipt of an application that complies with all requirements, the Electoral Commissioner places a public notice in relation to the application in the <i>Government Gazette</i> and a newspaper circulating generally in the State • Any elector who wishes to object must submit this in writing to the Electoral Commissioner within one month after the day of publication of the notice in the <i>Government Gazette</i> • Unless the Electoral Commissioner considers the statement of objection frivolous, this statement must be given to the applicant for right of reply and made available for public inspection • Any reply from the applicant to this objection, made within the specified period, must also be available for public inspection <p>Following the decision to register the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information set out in the application (except details of the 500 electors) and any documentation accompanying the application is to be added to the register of political parties • Written notice of the registration is to be given to the applicant • Written notice of the party's registration must be given to any elector objecting to its registration, together with the reasons for the rejection of the elector's statement • Notification of the party's registration must be made by notice in the Gazette • The Electoral Commissioner must not register or make any action in relation to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary on receipt of written request of Secretary of party • Party no longer exists • Party is not a parliamentary party and does not have at least 500 members who are electors • The candidates at a conjoint election held after the registration of the party did not include at least one candidate endorsed by the party • The registration was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation • A return required to be lodged under Part VI of the Electoral Act 1907 (Disclosure of Gifts, Income and Expenditure) by the agent of the political party has been outstanding for more than 12 months • If the Electoral Commissioner decides to cancel the registration, written notice of cancellation must be given to the secretary of the party and notice of the proposed cancellation placed in the <i>Government Gazette</i> and a newspaper circulating generally in the State • The Electoral Commissioner must consider any objections to the cancellation of registration • If the Electoral Commissioner decides to cancel the registration, written notice of this with reasons, must be given to the secretary of the party, notice of the cancellation must be placed in the Gazette, information and documents relating to the party must be removed from the register and the documents retained

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
		<p>giving the applicant chance to amend the application within one month of that notice being given</p> <p>If the Electoral Commissioner refuses an application the applicant must be given written notice of this refusal and the reasons for it</p>		<p>registration of a political party during an election period</p>	
<p>SA <i>Electoral Act 1985</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parliamentary party – with at least one member in a Commonwealth, State or Territory parliament • A political party with at least 150 members on the SA House of Assembly electoral roll • Written constitution (which includes the objective of endorsing candidates to contest State elections) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Party name: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 6 words - Obscene - Name, abbreviation or acronym of, or similar to, another political party, non related - Contains the words 'independent' or 'independent party' & name, abbreviation or acronym of a parliamentary or registered political party, or so closely resembles the name of another so as to cause confusion • If name or abbreviation is that of, or similar to, a prominent public body & therefore likely to cause confusion • Written notification of reasons for & refusal to register to applicant. Right of applicant to appeal against decision of Electoral Commissioner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be lodged with Electoral Commissioner by party secretary or authorised person of party in writing & signed <p>Application to set out/include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Party name (and abbreviation) - Name, address & signature of person who is to be registered officer - Name & address of applicant and capacity in which make application - Copy of party's constitution - Evidence of party membership (non-parliamentary parties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On receipt of an application, the Electoral Commissioner places a public notice detailing the application in the <i>Government Gazette</i> & a newspaper circulating generally in the State. Any elector is able to object in writing to the application for registration within one month of the notice publication date; objector to supply his/her address • When decision is made that party should be registered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name of party (& abbreviation) & name/address of registered officer entered in the Register; - written notification to applicant of registration; - any objectors written to & notified of registration & why objection rejected - <i>Gazette</i> notice of registration of Party • Where decision is refused, applicant is given written notice of and reasons for the refusal and rights to appeal against the decision of the Electoral Commissioner • Applications cannot be processed in the 'election period' (issue of writ to 6pm polling day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary on receipt of a written application, signed by registered officer or authorised person • Party has ceased to exist or have at least 150 members who are SA electors • Not a parliamentary party & fails to endorse candidates for election at two consecutive State general elections • Registration was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation <p>Deregistration cannot occur during the 'election period'</p> <p>Electoral Commissioner advises registered officer of intention to deregister party & allows chance for registered officer to show reason why the party should not be deregistered. Details on register cancelled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Electoral Commissioner publishes a notice in Government Gazette of deregistration</i>

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
<p>TAS <i>Electoral Act 2004</i></p>	<p>100 members each of whom is an elector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TEC may reject an application that is not properly completed or contains incorrect information. • The TEC is to reject an application if it considers that— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name or ballot paper name is, obscene, offensive or frivolous; or - the name or ballot paper name so nearly resembles an existing party name that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that party name; or - the name or ballot paper name would otherwise cause confusion if registered. • The TEC may reject an application if the name or ballot paper name is a public body name or is likely to be confused with or mistaken for a public body name. • Any person may lodge an objection with the TEC on the above grounds. • The TEC decision to accept or reject an application may be appealed to the Supreme Court within 8 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodged with the TEC in the approved form and is to — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be signed by the party secretary, the proposed registered officer and deputy registered officer - specify the name of the party - specify the ballot paper name - specify the name and address of the proposed registered officer and deputy registered officer - list names and addresses of at least 100 members • Each of the 100 members is to make a statutory declaration that they are a member of the party and support the application • Between the issue and return of a writ , no action to register or deregister a party is to be taken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form, together with the 100 statutory declarations, lodged with the TEC • TEC gives notice of application in the 3 daily Tasmanian newspapers and the <i>Government Gazette</i> • Notice to contain the particulars of the application including names and addresses of members • Any person may object to application on specified grounds within 30 days • Within 21 days, TEC considers objections and accepts or rejects application • Appeals to Supreme Court may be lodged within 8 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the application of 3 of the registered members • Party registration may be reviewed by the TEC no more than once per year. Party registration may be cancelled if— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the registered officer has not returned the review of party registration form within the time limit and one month's public notice has been given - after the review, the party has less than 100 members and one month's public notice has been given.
<p>ACT <i>Electoral Act 1992</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written constitution which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - name of party - functions &/or objectives of party, one of which includes endorsing candidates to contest ACT legislative assembly elections - membership requirements - the party's decision making processes - office bearers of the party - details related to the keeping of the party's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Party name or abbreviation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has more than six words - is obscene - is the name or acronym of another registered political party - so nearly resembles the name or acronym of another political party that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that name or acronym - consists of the word 'independent' or 'independent party' - consists of or includes word 	<p>Application for registration must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be signed by the secretary of the party • state the party's name and any abbreviation that the party intends to use • state the name, address and contain specimen signature of person nominated to be registered officer of party (who is an ACT elector and not a registered officer of any other registered party) • be accompanied by a copy of the party's constitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On receipt of an application where the Commissioner is satisfied that the party may be eligible for registration, the Commissioner will place a notice of the application for registration in the ACT Legislation Register and <i>The Canberra Times</i>. The notice will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set out the name and abbreviation of the party - set out the name and address of the person nominated to be the registered officer - state that copies of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation • The secretary of the party requests the cancellation in writing • The party has not endorsed a candidate at the last two elections • The Commissioner believes that the party has ceased to exist, does not have at least 100 members who are electors for the ACT, or does not have a written constitution • Except where the party requests cancellation, before cancelling registration, the Commissioner will in writing advise the relevant officer of

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
	<p>accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mechanism for changing the constitution • A political party must have at least 100 members on the ACT electoral roll 	<p>'independent' and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the name or acronym of another political party ii) matter that so nearly resembles the name or acronym of another political party so as likely to cause confusion or be mistaken for that name or acronym <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of party name after cancellation (before election after cancellation) • If Commissioner refuses an application for registration of a political party, Commissioner must give secretary of party a review statement about the decision to refuse the application; and if an objection was made to the application, give the objector written notice of the refusal to register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be made before 30 June in an election year in order to take effect before an election 	<p>application and constitution of the party are available for public inspection during ordinary office hours; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - state that written objection may be given to the Commissioner within 14 days after the publication of the notice • The Commissioner may, by written notice given to applicant for registration of a political party, require the applicant to give to the Commissioner within a stated period stated information, or a stated document, relating to the application • The Commissioner may, require the applicant to give him or her a list of the members of the political party • If the applicant fails to comply with a notice the Commissioner may refuse the application • If the Commissioner refuses the application (as above), he or she must give the applicant a review statement about the Commissioner's decision • The Commissioner may use membership list information only to find out whether a political party has at least 100 members who are electors • Objecting to the registration of a party must be lodged in writing with the Commissioner within 14 days from the date of publication of the notice and set out the name, address and signature of the objector, and the grounds for objection. Copies of objections are given to the proposed registered officer with a written invitation to respond in writing within 14 days. Objections and responses are available for public inspection 	<p>the party of his intention to cancel registration of the party, setting out the reasons for the proposed cancellation. A notice of proposed cancellation will also be published in the ACT Legislation Register. Written objection lodged within 14 days will be considered before a final decision is taken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A registered political party (parent party) can object to the continued use of a similar party name or abbreviation by another party (a party registered after the parent party that at the time of registration was related to the parent party) which is no longer related to the parent party. If objection upheld, the once-related party must apply to change name or face deregistration

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If it appears to the Commissioner that the application may have to be refused, but that the application might be varied to avoid refusal, the applicant will receive written notice of that decision. The Commissioner will re-consider the application if a written request is received from the secretary within 28 days varying the information in the initial application or requesting the Commissioner to proceed with the original application • A party has the right to appeal against the decision to refuse an application • Where the Commissioner is satisfied that a party should be registered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - party entered in the Register of Political Parties - applicant advised that the party has been registered - any person who objected to the registration is given a review statement about the decision, by the Commissioner • The Register is closed 36 days prior to polling day (applications need to be made by 30 June in an election to take effect before an election) • The secretary of a registered political party may apply to the Commissioner to change particulars in the political parties register. It is treated as an application for registration, including notice publication and objection period 	

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION
(as at August 2005)

JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
<p>NT <i>Electoral Act 2004</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be registered under the Commonwealth Electoral Act, or • Must be established on the basis of a written constitution that states the party's aims and have at least 200 members who are – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. electors; 2. members under the party's constitution; and 3. not members of a registered party or another political party applying for registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission must refuse the application to register a party if – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the person nominated in the application to be the registered officer of the party is not qualified to be an elector or is the registered officer of a registered party; or 2. the Commission reasonably believes the party does not have at least 200 members who are- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electors; • members under the party's constitution; and • not members of a registered party or another political party applying for registration • The Commission must refuse the application if it reasonably believes the party's name – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. consists of more than 6 words; 2. is obscene; 3. is the name or an acronym of the name of a registered party or parliamentary party; 4. so nearly resembles the name or an acronym of the name of a registered party or parliamentary party it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that name or acronym; 5. consists of the word "independent" or "independent party"; 6. would be likely to cause confusion if registered; or 7. includes an MLA's name and the applicant does not have the MLA's written 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be lodged with the Commission:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. in the approved form; 2. be signed by the secretary of the party; 3. state the party's name; 4. state the name and address, and contain a specimen signature, of the person nominated to be the registered officer of the party; and 5. be accompanied by – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a statutory declaration by the secretary stating the person nominated to be the registered officer of the party is qualified to be an elector; • a copy of the party's constitution; • the application fee of \$500; • where the application is made by a party that is registered under the Commonwealth Act, a statutory declaration by the secretary stating the details of the party's registration under that Act; or • where the application is made by a party under the membership criterion, a statutory declaration by the secretary stating at least 200 members under the party's constitution of the party are electors and are not members of another registered party or of a political party applying for registration and a list of the names and postal addresses of at least 200 members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On receipt of an application that complies with all requirements, the Commission checks that the party has federal registration or verifies the party has at least 200 members who are electors and not members of any other registered party or party applying for registration. • The Commission places a public notice in relation to the application in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the Territory. • Any elector who wishes to object must submit this in writing to the Commission within 14 days after the publication of the notice. • The Commission must give the registered officer of the party a copy of the objection and written notice for the person to respond to the objection within 14 days of receipt. • As soon as practicable after the abovementioned period, the Commission must make a copy of the objection and the response by the registered officer available for public inspection. The documents remain on public inspection until the application is decided by the Commission. • A decision on the registration of a party is made by the Commission in the light of each objection and response received <p>Following a decision to register the party the Commission must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • register the party; • publish a notice of registration in the <i>Gazette</i> and in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the Territory; • give notice of registration to the applicant; and • give an information notice for the 	<p>The Commission must cancel the registration of a party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the registered officer of the party asks the Commission to cancel the registration; • if the party fails to endorse candidates at 2 consecutive general elections while registered; or • if the party was granted registration on the basis of registration under the Commonwealth Electoral Act and it ceases to be registered under that Act <p>The Commission must cancel the registration of a party if it reasonably believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the party has ceased to exist (whether by amalgamation with another party or otherwise); • the party does not have a constitution; • the registered officer has not complied with a notice from the Commission requesting further information on eligibility to be registered; • the registration of the party was obtained by fraud; or • the party was registered on the basis of having at least 200 qualified members and the party ceases to meet this criterion

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

(as at August 2005)













JURISDICTION	ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION	DISQUALIFICATION (REFUSAL TO REGISTER)	APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION PROCESS	REASONS FOR DEREGISTRATION (CANCELLATION)
		consent to use the name		decision to register the party to the objector where an objection was lodged against the registration The Commission must not register or make any action in relation to the registration of a political party during an election period	

Attachment D

CRU Program

- D1 - AEC Progress
- D2 - CRU National Standards
- D3 - CRU External Data Sources

Australian National Audit Office recommendations

Rec.	Subject of recommendation	Status	Comments
1	Develop a strategic plan for a consistent national Continuous Roll Update (CRU) program.		A CRU Strategic Plan was developed and agreed by ECA in 2003 but the ANAO follow-up audit criticised the plan as being too operationally focussed. The plan is to be reviewed in 2005. The AEC has provided a paper to the Electoral Council of Australia to facilitate discussions to make the next plan more strategic than its predecessor.
2	Determine an optimal suite of data for an effective national CRU program and monitor the same for effectiveness over time.		A 'starting point' optimal suite has been identified. It is expected that once implemented the EMIS will allow for more effective analysis of the CRU program.
3	Identify more effective arrangements with States and Territories for access to relevant data and actively pursue all essential data sets.		MOUs between AEOs and state/territory electoral authorities were introduced in 2003-04 to address this issue. The MOUs have been revised to give increased prominence to the need to enhance CRU data sets in all jurisdictions.
4	Review and revise CRU correspondence to electors including reference to a citizen's legal obligation to enrol and penalties applying for non-enrolment.		Revised CRU letters were introduced in February 2005.
5	Upgrade management information systems for measuring and reporting on enrolment activities and initiatives such as CRU.		A phased implementation of EMIS will commence during 2005-06.
6	Identify and implement a suite of relevant and appropriate performance indicators to meet the needs of the AEC's stakeholders.		Revised performance indicators are developed. Reporting commenced for some in the 2003-04 Annual Report, but the remainder can be reported on only following EMIS implementation.
7	Consult with key stakeholders and develop appropriate strategies and procedures for conducting, managing and reporting on these relationships.		Improving stakeholder relationships is one of the major areas of focus in AEC 2004-2007 Strategic Plan. The MOU process and AEC efforts to include state/territory electoral authorities in the development of the new CRU Strategic Plan aim at fostering improved relationships.
8	Develop performance indicators and targets to measure the accuracy of the electoral roll and report the same.		Revised performance indicators are developed. Some were reported in 2003/04 Annual Report, remainder can be reported on following EMIS implementation
9	Introduce a periodic review of a sample of the electoral roll.		The first round of Sample Audit Fieldwork (SAF) was conducted in March 2004 and a report on results provided to the Minister and JSCEM in April 2005. The second round of SAF was conducted in March 2005. An interim report setting out preliminary results is currently being prepared.
10	Focus AEC enrolment efforts for 2002-03 on improving the completeness aspect of the electoral roll.		The results from the SAF in March 2004 and preliminary results for the 2005 SAF indicate that the roll is at least 95% complete. Efforts continue to maintain and expand roll completeness.
11	Finalise and implement the AEC's fraud control plan specific to enrolment activities.		The Electoral Fraud Control Plan was finalised in March 2004; enrolment fraud awareness sessions were held before the 2004 election. An e-learning package has been developed. New procedures are being finalised.
12	Complete the AEC's review of ss.89 to 92 of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> taking into account current developments in technology.		The review was completed and a report submitted to JSCEM 2001 election inquiry. Amendments to roll access provisions of CEA passed in June 2004

Implemented












Satisfactory progress made



Limited progress made



Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters recommendations

Rec.	Subject of recommendation	Status	Comments
1	Set a target for Electoral Roll accuracy, embracing accurate name, birth date and address and, commencing in 2002-03, use this target as a performance indicator in its PBS and report performance in annual reports.		Revised performance indicators are developed. Some were reported in 2003-04 Annual Report, with the remainder to be reported following EMIS implementation. The AEC (unsuccessfully) sought Ministerial approval to include revised performance indicators in its 2005-06 PBS.
2	Set a target for Electoral Roll validity and, commencing in 2002-03, use this target as a performance indicator in its PBS and report performance in its annual reports.		Revised performance indicators are developed. Some were reported in 2003-04 Annual Report, with the remainder to be reported following EMIS implementation. The AEC (unsuccessfully) sought Ministerial approval to include revised performance indicators in its 2005-06 PBS.
3	Report to the Committee, on a 12-monthly basis, outlining the circumstances of cases where enrolment forms have not been accepted as valid immediately, but have been subject to verification.		A system for collecting/reporting this information is currently being developed.
4	The integrity of the Electoral Roll be tested by a total habitation review of a sample electoral division in a State which has not had an election in the 12 months preceding the habitation review.		A full habitation review of the Division of Isaacs (Vic) was conducted March-June 2004 and a report was provided to the Minister and the JSCEM in April 2005.
5	At the earliest opportunity in 2002-03, policies and procedures for AEC staff, aimed at preventing and detecting electoral fraud, be incorporated in the proposed electoral fraud control plan.		The Electoral Fraud Control Plan was finalised in March 2004; enrolment fraud awareness sessions were held before the 2004 election and an e-learning package developed. New procedures are being finalised.
6	Provide the Committee with regular 12-monthly progress reports on its development and implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national standards for updating the Electoral Roll; and • a timetable for the implementation of a consistent national CRU program. 		The ECA produces a yearly report on CRU activities, which is forwarded to the JSCEM. The AEC assists in the preparation of this report. A National Standard for CRU Activities has been developed by the AEC and agreed with state/territory electoral authorities. This standard sets out the minimum frequencies for various enrolment activities and is being progressively implemented subject to funding availability.
7	AEC Central Office conduct the negotiations with State and Territory agencies to ensure it has optimal access to relevant CRU data sources in all States and Territories.		AEC view is that AEOs, as AEC Executive representatives in the relevant state or territory, should be responsible for this. The MOU process between AEOs and state/territory electoral authorities was introduced to address this issue within our existing view on responsibilities.
8	Consideration of whether the Joint Roll Arrangements should be modernised to take into account recent changes in the CRU process.		The AEC has presented a proposal to all state and territory administrations for a principles-based JRA, incorporating linkages to the CRU initiatives in each jurisdiction. Since that time a new JRA has been agreed with Victoria and a new WA JRA is nearing finalisation (negotiations are complete –awaiting WA state government approval process before Commonwealth process can conclude).
9	Undertake periodic, random spot checks of enrolment details at a sample of addresses as a means of testing whether the CRU process is working effectively in maximizing accuracy of enrolment details.		The first round of Sample Audit Fieldwork (SAF) was conducted in March 2004. A report on results was provided to the Minister and JSCEM in April 2005. The second round of SAF was conducted in March 2005. An interim report setting out preliminary results is currently being prepared.








AEC Progress as at 2 September 2005

Attachment D1

Implemented

Satisfactory progress made

Limited progress made

Rec.	Subject of recommendation	Status	Comments
10	<p>As a matter of priority, the AEC implement more effective management information systems, with a view to ensuring it has the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish target levels for accuracy, completeness and validity of the Roll and assess whether targets have been met; • determine the costs of, and timetable for, implementing the Australian National Audit Office's recommendations; • prevent and detect electoral fraud; • determine the true cost of producing the Electoral Roll; • ensure that the Electoral Roll is generally managed effectively; and • provide greater transparency and accountability through better performance reporting. 		<p>A phased implementation of EMIS will commence during 2005-06.</p>
11	<p>The AEC consider making its procedures manuals and related material available to its staff 'on-line', via the AEC's Intranet, and making them available to the public where this is consistent with fraud control protocols.</p>		<p>Enrolment procedures manuals are being progressively placed on the AEC intranet as they are updated.</p>
12	<p>As soon as practicable, the AEC report to the Committee as to when the recommendations in the Audit Report will be implemented and, where appropriate, the funding needed to implement them.</p>		<p>Overtaken by events – specific funding was provided as documented in the 2003-04 PBS.</p>
13	<p>The ANAO conduct a followup audit to its Audit into the 'Integrity of the Electoral Roll', so that the Committee can review the AEC's progress in implementing the recommendations from the Audit Report, well in advance of the next Federal Election.</p>		<p>ANAO follow-up audit report was tabled in April 2004.</p>
14	<p>With a view to recovering costs associated with the provision of the Electoral Roll data to Commonwealth agencies and departments listed in Schedule 2 of the <i>Electoral and Referendum Regulations 1940</i>, the AEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and implement a pricing regime to charge for use of Electoral Roll data; and • review current pricing arrangements for the exchange of data with CRU data sources. 		<p>The government response noted that full cost recovery was not always in the public interest. It is not always appropriate to apply full cost recovery where the AEC receives valuable reciprocal information for roll maintenance purposes. In relation to CRU data the AEC attempts to negotiate based on mutual benefit.</p>

Implemented



Satisfactory progress made



Limited progress made



CRU Priorities

The following list identifies the CRU activities in priority order to be undertaken as funding permits. The list should be used to develop the yearly CRU program which is to be agreed between the AEC and the relevant state/territory electoral authority.

Priority	Activity	Comment	Timeframe
1.	Background Review	Full data files from Centrelink and the state/territory transport authority should be sought before undertaking a background review	Annually
2.	Monthly Mail Review	Now includes potential Electors, Change of Address, vacant, MeLimit and supplementary review. This mailout maybe suspended for electoral events and over the Christmas break.	Monthly
3.	Bounty for Enrolment forms	Where arrangements can be made to obtain enrolment forms from a target group Eg schools, indigenous communities	Ongoing
4.	Citizenship Ceremonies	In line with policy on attendance	Ongoing
5.	Fieldwork (Non-response)	100% of addresses identified in the non-response fieldwork program should be reviewed annually – funds permitting	At least once a year
6.	Review of Silent Electors	S104(7) of the CEA provides for a review of silent electors when directed by the EC. This review would usually be undertaken every 3 rd year.	When directed by EC
7.	Review of GPVs	S185B of the CEA provides for a review of the GPV register when directed by the EC. This review would usually be undertaken every 3 rd year.	When directed by EC
8.	Review by Land Use Code	This review provides a mechanism to target institutions, caravan parks etc	At least once in a 2 year cycle
9.	Review of GDB	This is a fieldwork review of specified GDBs. This would normally be undertaken in areas where there has been new development or high growth.	As required or as funds permit
10.	Objection/Determination	Part IX of the CEA provides for a DRO to send objection and determinations to challenged electors	Quarterly
11.	Fieldwork (Reinstatement)	S105(4) of the CEA requires a review of an elector's entitlement before an elector can be reinstated to the roll after having a declaration vote admitted	Within 3 months of a Federal election or by-election
**	Rural & Remote Area Enrolment	Review areas which are not covered by mail review or other fieldwork	Subject to funding & local operational requirements Eg election timing

** The priority for this activity will depend on the state/territory or division.

CRU Data Sources Sept 2005	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Key: Y = Yes (electronic), Y(m) = Yes (manual process) BN = Being negotiated # = Undertaken by State electoral authority TI – MOU signed, technical issues to be resolved								
Centrelink (Full File & Changes and Additions)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fact of Death	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Transport (Full Client File)	Y	#BN	BN	Y	Y	Y	Y	BN
Transport (Monthly Changes and Additions)	TI Y	#BN	BN	Y	Y	Y	Y	BN
Lands		#						
Tenants		#	Y		#		Y	
Utilities - Electricity and Water		#					Y	
Schools Programs/Board of Studies/Tertiary Admissions		#	Y(m)	Y(m)	Y(m)	Y(m)	Y	
Public Housing/Housing and Works		#		Y				
Citizenship	Y(m)	Y(m)	Y(m)	Y(m)	Y(m)	Y(m)	Y(m)	Y(m)

Note: ACT tenants and ACTEW data is supplied quarterly
 Qld Transport data was suspended in September 2004 – QEC have been asked to invoke their demand powers to obtain the data
 Monthly extracts of NSW Transport data should commence early this year commenced
 VIC transport – AEC is currently negotiating monthly and full client files
 A one-off supply of WA Apprenticeship data was processed in August 2004
 TAS schools data is set up but we are not receiving data as yet