

## Early Voting Review Recommendations

Rec No	Recommendation
1	<p>The following text regarding PPVC premises in shopping centres should be included in the amended pre-poll voting policy:</p> <p>When potential locations for PPVCs are being examined, consideration needs to be given to the capacity for party workers to hand out How-to-Votes (HTVs) in the immediate vicinity of the PPVC entry. This can be a significant issue when leasing space in a shopping centre in particular, as at previous elections some shopping centre managements have refused party workers to set up their tables etc in common areas of the shopping centres. While the locations of PPVCs should be determined based on elector convenience, the AEC believes that the capacity for electors to receive HTVs is an important electoral service, therefore the following points should be considered in determining PPVC locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preferred location for a PPVC is one that allows party workers to establish a HTV distribution area outside the immediate entry to it. If the preferred location does not allow this, negotiations with the lessor/centre manager should be undertaken to try to achieve this aim</li> <li>• If this is unsuccessful, then consideration should be given to the possibility of either defining part of the PPVC as an area in which party workers can issue HTVs, but can be clearly separated from the PPVC operation or if party workers cannot be accommodated inside the PPVC due to space limitations, setting up a table for the display of all HTV material. In the situation that party workers cannot be accommodated either outside the PPVC or inside, the matter should be discussed with the State Operations Director and/or State Manager before a final decision to use the premises is made, taking into account the availability of alternative suitable premises.</li> </ul>
2	That State Managers arrange for mobile polling to occur at all prisons where there are suitable numbers of persons on remand.
3	That the AEC consider ways to increase elector and stakeholder awareness of the restrictions on interstate voting on polling day.
4	That the AEC consult with its Disability Reference group to determine appropriate ways to increase awareness of early voting services amongst electors with disability. Discussion on appropriate formats should also take place.
5	That the AEC target stakeholder awareness of early voting options, and interstate voting on polling day, through appropriate mediums, including meetings with Members and Senators, party officials, and in the Tallyboard and Candidate and Scrutineer handbooks.
6	That the AEC target appropriate stakeholders to raise awareness of issues surrounding the provision of how-to-vote material and scrutineering responsibilities through appropriate mediums, including contact with hospital staff, meetings with Members and Senators, party officials, and in the Tallyboard and Candidate and Scrutineer handbooks.
7	That State Managers review interstate polling day locations with a view to expand their use from 2004, particularly in rural and remote areas on major transport routes, and at other tourist locations.
8	That wherever possible, PPVCs should be serviced by public transport, and be in main streets or in, or near, shopping centres.
9	That PPVCs be open on the Saturday of the weekend before polling day in each division, the late night shopping night in the two weeks before polling day (where applicable), and be accompanied by advertising to that effect.
10	That the AEC develop and implement improved PPVC signage, in conjunction with the Government response to JSCEM recommendation 17.
11	That the AEC develop and implement improved PPVC advertising, in conjunction with the Government response and level of funding to JSCEM recommendation 17

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12	That the AEC provide a more consistent approach to the provision of pre-poll services at airports across Australia at the next election. Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth airports should be provided with a PPVC for the 12 days before polling day, with extended hours appropriate to the flight times. Cairns, Darwin and Adelaide airports should be serviced by pre-poll facilities in the last week before polling day with hours appropriate to the flight times.
13	That the AEC advertising strategy address the provision of pre-poll services at the relevant airports.
14	That EPM(DO) be revised to incorporate contemporary practice regarding PPVCs. Draft text is to be prepared and circulated to State Managers for comment.
15	<p>The following model is proposed as a minimum for PPVC hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPVCs in all capital cities and their metropolitan areas are to open from 8.30am to 6.00pm in the two weeks prior to an election. Where PPVCs are located in or near shopping centres they are also to open, where possible, for extended shopping hours</li> <li>• PPVCs that have been established because the divisional office pre-poll voting facilities are inadequate should operate from three weeks prior to polling day. These PPVCs must open from 8.30am – 6pm Monday to Friday, (or 8am – 5.30pm for the NT).</li> <li>• PPVCs in large towns/cities open from 8.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday in the two weeks prior to polling day if historical/expected voting patterns indicate such a need.</li> <li>• PPVCs located in or near major shopping centres should, be open for similar hours as the shopping centre, including extended hours for late night shopping and on Saturdays.</li> <li>• PPVCs established in areas outside of large towns/cities should open for periods and hours that are appropriate for the anticipated voter turnout. Where possible, these PPVCs should operate for standard hours (i.e. 8.30am – 6pm) on the days that they open.</li> <li>• It is recognised that there will be specific examples where a departure from this model is warranted on a case-by-case basis, at the agreement of the State Manager.</li> </ul>
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16	That the draft report on Recommendation 17 from the 2001 JSCEM be recirculated for comment to SAC, with particular reference to remote mobile polling issues, and the mobile polling feedback discussed earlier in this report.
17	That the AEC pilot the use of State Government agencies in rural Queensland to issue pre-poll votes, in locations where there are no divisional offices, in conjunction with the Government response to JSCEM recommendation 15.
18	That an options paper be prepared by the Communications Branch (with input from ESP as appropriate) on the advertising approach for PPVCs and Divisional offices, and be circulated to SAC members for their consideration and feedback.
19	That the EC consider the revised Polling Place Abolition Policy (as amended to maintain the 100 vote threshold).