



Behind the scenes

Behind the scenes: the 2004 election report
including national election results



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The AEC welcomes feedback on this publication so that we can ensure that it is as relevant and useful as possible.

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- Is there any other information you would like to see covered in *Behind the Scenes*?
- Other comments about *Behind the Scenes*.

Election 2004 National Results Feedback

- Are there any other statistics or information you would like to see included in the report?
- Other comments about the national results.

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Media and Communication Section

Australian Electoral Commission

PO Box 6172

Kingston ACT 2604

Or, email us at info@aec.gov.au

Foreword

Behind the scenes



I am pleased to present the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) combined report and national statistics for the 2004 federal election.

The first part of this publication—Behind the Scenes—tells the story of the 2004 federal election by providing information about how the AEC conducted all aspects of the election.

The second part of this volume provides the official National and State results of the election in various statistical tables.

This is just one of the series of AEC publications designed to increase awareness in the community about Australia's electoral system. If you would like further information phone 13 23 26 or visit www.aec.gov.au.

Andy Becker
Electoral Commissioner

Contents

Behind the scenes

Foreword	iii	5 POLLING ARRANGEMENTS	13
Glossary	vii	Printing of ballot papers	13
		Training	14
Behind the Scenes	1	Pre-poll and postal voting	14
1 INTRODUCTION	1	Overseas voting	16
History of electoral administration	1	Mobile polling	16
The role of the Australian Electoral Commission	1	Antarctic voting	17
The structure of the Australian Electoral Commission	2	Infrastructure logistics	17
Legislation changes since the 2001 election	2	Voting equipment	18
Redistribution of electoral boundaries	3	6 VOTING	19
2 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION	5	Types of votes	19
Issue of the writs	5	Voting systems	20
2004 federal election timetable	6	How to vote	21
3 ENROLMENT	7	How the votes are counted	22
Who could vote?	7	Formal and informal votes	26
Close of rolls	7	7 ELECTION DAY	27
Special enrolment	8	Polling places	27
Overseas enrolment	8	How-to-vote cards	28
The electoral roll	9	Issuing of ballot papers	28
4 NOMINATIONS	11	Scrutineers during polling	28
Who could nominate as a candidate?	11	8 ELECTION NIGHT	29
Declaration of nominations	11	Counting at polling places	29
Nominations overview	12	House of Representatives count on election night	29
Nominations system	12	Senate count on election night	30
Draw for ballot paper positions	12	National Tally Room	31
Senate group voting tickets	12		

9 SCRUTINY AFTER ELECTION NIGHT	33	14 REVIEWS	51
Fresh scrutiny of ordinary votes	33	Federal Parliamentary inquiry	51
Declaration vote scrutiny	33	Operational reviews	51
Computerised Senate scrutiny	34	Public information campaign reviews	52
Scanning	34	Election 2004 information inquiry service—evaluation	52
Declaration of the polls	34	Review of the training of polling staff program	52
Return of the Writs	34	Internal audit	52
10 ELECTION VISITORS PROGRAM	35	Postal voting inquiry	52
11 PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN	37	APPENDICES	53
Advertising	37	A List of participants in the Election Visitors Program	53
Public relations	39	B List of overseas posts and votes issued	54
Publications	40	C Election cost estimates	55
Elector leaflet	41	D 2004 election publications	56
Call centre service	41	E AEC central and head office addresses	57
Telephone interpreting service	41	National results	
Internet	43	INTRODUCTION	59
Special target groups	43	Candidates and political parties	59
12 FUNDING AND DISCLOSURE	45	Enrolment	59
Election funding	45	Types of votes	60
Receipt of returns	46	Mobile polling	60
Registered political parties	46	Counting the votes for the House of Representatives	60
13 ELECTION LITIGATION	49	Two-Party-Preferred (TPP) figures	60
Injunctions	49	Counting the votes for the Senate	60
Petitions to the court of disputed returns	49	Working out the quota	61
Prosecutions	50	Counting first preference votes	61
		Transferring the surplus	61

Exclusion of unsuccessful candidates	61	Turnout	110
Explanation of selected tables	62	• By State/Territory and by division within a State/Territory	110
Election dates	68	• Divisions listed in descending order of turnout	112
Codes of political parties	69	Informal voting statistics	114
House of Representatives electoral divisions	70	• By State/Territory and by division within a State/Territory	114
House of Representatives: Members elected	71	• Listed in ascending order of informality	116
Senators of the 41st parliament	73	Seats which changed hands	118
Party representation	74	Seats decided on preferences	119
Enrolment statistics	75	SENATE	120
Nominations by gender	77	First preference votes by group	120
• House of Representatives	77	Result by vote type by State	123
• Senate	78	First preference votes by candidate	131
Declaration votes issued	79	Use of group voting tickets	149
Declaration votes received	84		
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESULTS	89		
First preference votes by party	89		
Result by vote type by party by State	92		
Two-party-preferred statistics	99		
• By State/Territory and by division within a State/Territory	99		
• Divisions listed in descending order of TPP by party	104		
• Two-party-preferred swing to Liberal/National Coalition by division by state	106		
• Swing to Liberal/National Coalition by division in descending order of swing	108		

Glossary

Behind the scenes

absent vote	A vote cast by electors who are out of their division but still within their State or Territory.
absolute majority	More than half the formal votes (50%+1 vote) in a House of Representatives election. A candidate must receive an absolute majority to be elected as a Member of Parliament in a division.
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)	The independent statutory authority established in 1984 to maintain and update the electoral roll and conduct federal elections and referendums.
Australian Electoral Officer (AEO)	AEC's chief manager in each State and the Northern Territory. The returning officer for the Senate in each State and Territory.
ballot paper	A paper which shows the names of the candidates who are standing for election. An elector votes by showing his or her preferences on a ballot paper.
by-election	An election held to fill vacancies resulting from death, resignation, absence without leave, expulsion, disqualification or ineligibility of a Member.
candidate	A person who stands for election to Parliament. Candidates can be nominated by political parties or stand as an independent.
certified list of voters	The official electoral roll used on election day to mark off electors' names. The list contains the name and address of all electors for that division. After an election the Certified Lists are electronically scanned to identify apparent non-voters and possible multiple voters.
Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (the Act)	The legislation governing the Commonwealth electoral process.
Constitution	The set of basic rules by which a country or State is governed. In Australia's case, the Constitution is a document written in the 1890s and approved in 1901 which sets out the structure of Australian federal politics. The Constitution can only be amended through a Constitutional referendum.
Court of Disputed Returns	A candidate, elector or the AEC may dispute the validity of an election by a petition to the High Court sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns.
declaration vote	Votes that are sealed in an envelope signed by the voter. These votes are cast when: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the voter's name cannot be found on the certified list• the voter's name is marked off the certified list as already having voted

- the voter is registered as a silent elector (i.e. his/her address does not appear on the roll)
- the voter casts an absent, pre-poll or postal vote.

division	Voting districts or electorates for the House of Representatives.
Divisional Returning Officer (DRO)	The full time AEC officer responsible for maintaining the roll and conducting the election within a division.
Electoral Commissioner	The officer who performs the function of the chief executive officer of the AEC.
electoral roll	A list of the names of all the people who are entitled to vote in an election.
electoral roll review	A regular check of the accuracy of the roll using a variety of methods including data matching, and in some cases, house to house surveys.
formal vote	A vote cast in an election or referendum that has been marked according to the rules of that election.
general postal voter (GPV)	An elector who is registered to have postal ballot papers sent to him/her automatically. An elector who has difficulty getting to a polling place on election day can register as a GPV.
group voting ticket (GVT)	The order in which a Senate group wants its preferences distributed. If a voter chooses to put the number '1' in one of the boxes above the line on a Senate ballot paper, the preferences will be distributed according to the group's GVT.
House of Representatives	One of the two houses of the Federal Parliament of Australia, whose Members are elected on a population basis.
itinerant elector	A special enrolment category for electors who live in Australia but have no permanent residential address.
Member of Parliament (MP)	A person elected to parliament. Most commonly used for those elected to the House of Representatives.
mobile polling	A mobile polling team brings the polling place to the elector. Teams visit electors in hospitals, nursing homes and prisons, and also visit remote locations by air, sea or road.
nomination	Candidates must be nominated before they may be elected to the Senate or the House of Representatives.
ordinary vote	A vote cast at a polling place in the elector's home division on election day.
overseas elector	An elector who is going overseas for six years or less can apply to be an overseas elector.
political party	A group of people with similar ideas or aims, some of whose members nominate as candidates at elections in the hope that they will be elected to parliament.
polling place	Location at which electors can cast their votes on election day.

postal vote	Ballot papers sent to electors who cannot attend a polling place in their State or Territory on election day.
preferential voting	A system of voting in which the voter completes the ballot paper by putting the number '1' in the box beside the candidate of their first choice, the number '2' beside their second choice and so on until all candidates are numbered.
pre-poll vote	Votes cast at a divisional office or pre-poll voting centre in the lead up to election day. They are cast by electors who will not be able to get to a polling place in their State or Territory on election day.
provisional vote	A vote cast in a circumstance where an elector's name cannot be found on the roll or has already been marked off the roll and the elector claims not to have voted.
quota	The number of votes needed by a candidate or party to be elected to the Senate.
redistribution	The redrawing of electoral boundaries for a division to ensure that there are, as near as possible, equal numbers of electors in each division for a State or Territory.
referendum	A public vote on a proposed law to alter the Constitution.
scrutineer	A person appointed by a candidate to observe the voting and counting of the votes.
scrutiny	The process of counting votes which commences following the close of polling. The formality of votes is determined and the votes are sorted and counted to determine the outcome of the election.
Senate	One of the two houses of Federal Parliament which has 76 Senators, 12 from each of the six states and two each from the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.
Senator	A person elected by the voters of a State or Territory to represent them in the Senate.
silent enrolment	Enrolment in which an elector's address is not shown on the electoral roll.
two-candidate-preferred	These figures show where preferences have been distributed to the final two candidates in an election. In most, but not all, cases these will be from the two major sides of politics—the ALP and the Coalition.
two-party-preferred	A distribution of preferences between the two major sides of politics (ALP/Coalition). The two-party-preferred count is often, but not always, similar to the two-candidate-preferred count.
writ	A document commanding an electoral officer to hold an election. The writ contains dates for the close of rolls, the close of nominations, election day and the return of the writ.

Behind the scenes



THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA WAS FORMED ON 1 JANUARY 1901 WHEN THE SIX COLONIES (NOW STATES) FEDERATED TO FORM THE NEW NATION. A FEDERAL PARLIAMENT, CONSISTING OF TWO HOUSES—THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE—WAS ESTABLISHED TO GOVERN THE NEW NATION. IT IS AT FEDERAL ELECTIONS THAT ELIGIBLE AUSTRALIANS ELECT PEOPLE TO REPRESENT THEM IN BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

History of electoral administration

Following the enactment of the *Commonwealth Franchise Act 1902* and the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1902*, an electoral office was established as a branch of the Department of Home Affairs to administer the conduct of federal elections and referendums. For the next 70 years the office functioned as a branch of various Commonwealth departments. The *Australian Electoral Office Act 1973* established the Australian Electoral Office as a statutory authority responsible to the Minister for Services and Property. On 21 February 1984 following major amendments to the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act) the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) was established as an independent statutory authority.

The role of the Australian Electoral Commission

The AEC is responsible for providing Australians with an independent electoral service that meets their needs and enhances their understanding of and participation in the electoral process.

Eight processes uniquely identify the AEC:

- preparing for, conducting and reviewing elections
- managing the Commonwealth electoral roll
- educating and informing the community about participating in the electoral process
- providing advice and assistance on electoral matters in Australia and overseas
- ensuring that political parties and others comply with financial disclosure requirements
- supporting electoral redistributions

- conducting research into electoral matters
- providing information and advice to Parliament and the Special Minister of State on electoral matters

The structure of the Australian Electoral Commission

The AEC is organised on a geographic basis with the central office in Canberra; a head office in each State capital city and the Northern Territory; and a divisional office in or near each of the 150 electoral divisions.

The AEC is headed by a Commission consisting of a Chairperson (who must be a judge or a retired judge of the Federal Court), the Electoral Commissioner (who performs the functions of the Chief Executive Officer) and a part-time non-judicial member (usually the Australian Statistician). In addition, the Deputy Electoral Commissioner assists the Electoral Commissioner.

In each State and the Northern Territory, the Australian Electoral Officer (AEO) is responsible for the management of electoral activities within their State or Territory. The ACT is managed by the NSW AEO, and during the election period an ACT AEO is appointed. The AEO is the returning officer for the Senate election in their State or Territory. Each electoral division has a permanent Divisional Returning Officer (DRO) who is responsible for electoral administration in his or her division. The DRO is the returning officer for the House of Representatives election in their division.

The AEC administers the following Acts:

- *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*
- *Representation Act 1983*
- *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*
- *Commonwealth Electoral Legislation (Provision of Information) Act 2000*

The AEC also has specific functions under the Constitution and the following Acts:

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*
- *Workplace Relations Act 1996*

- *Public Service Act 1999*
- *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*

Legislation changes since the 2001 election

A number of changes have been made during the 40th parliament to the Acts administered by the AEC. These include amendments:

- removing the roll from sale in any format and extending the end-use restrictions for roll information to all forms of the roll to prevent the use of the roll for purposes other than those permitted by the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act)
- allowing scrutineers to be present at pre-poll voting centres, and govern the behaviour of scrutineers at pre-poll voting centres
- extending the time in which Australians overseas can either apply for eligible overseas elector status or enrol from outside Australia for eligible overseas elector status, from two to three years
- including the sex and date of birth of electors on the certified list as a check on fraudulent voting
- amending the prohibition that prevents prisoners voting so that it affects prisoners serving a sentence of three years or more (instead of five years or more as previously)
- allowing registered political parties and independent members of parliament to be provided, on request, with certain information about where electors voted on election day
- increasing the penalty for multiple voting and make each additional occasion a separate offence, as well as increasing the penalty for false witnessing of enrolment forms
- allowing for the use of a measure of error in determining the ACT and NT's entitlement to representation in the House of Representatives.

A more comprehensive description of the amendments made during the 40th Parliament can be found in the *Electoral Newsfile No. 117*.



A polling place in the ACT

Redistribution of electoral boundaries

Each State and Territory is divided into voting areas called electoral divisions, with electors in each division electing a Member of Parliament to the House of Representatives.

A redistribution (or redrawing) of the geographic boundaries of these divisions takes place at least once every seven years to make sure that there is, as near as practicable, the same number of electors in each division within a State/Territory. The procedures for conducting redistributions are outlined in the Act.

Following the 2001 federal election, redistributions were undertaken in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Boundaries were also changed between elections in the Northern Territory.

The redistribution conducted over 2002–2003 in Victoria was triggered as seven years had elapsed since the last redistribution. This redistribution resulted in some changes to existing boundaries in Victoria, however the number of divisions was not changed. The names of 36 of the 37 divisions were retained. The Division of Burke was abolished,

and a new division was created in the west of Melbourne, the Division of Gorton.

As a result of population changes, redistributions were conducted in 2003 in Queensland and South Australia. It was determined that population growth in Queensland meant that the State was entitled to one more seat in the House of Representatives. In Queensland the boundaries of the existing 27 divisions were adjusted to include Bonner, the new 28th division. In South Australia, it was determined that the State was entitled to one less seat in the House of Representatives. Boundaries were adjusted and the Division of Bonython was abolished.

In 2004, the Northern Territory reverted to two electoral divisions, Divisions of Lingjari and Solomon. This was the result of the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Representation in the House of Representatives) Act 2004 setting aside the determination made in 2003, which saw the Northern Territory change from two electoral divisions (the Divisions of Lingjari and Solomon) to one (the Division of the Northern Territory). The amendment reverts

the Northern Territory to the previously established Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon. As a result of this amendment, at the 2004 federal election Northern Territory electors elected members to the House of Representatives for Lingiari and Solomon.

At the 2004 federal election, electors were electing 150 members to the House of Representatives, the same number as at the 2001 federal election.

The number of divisions in each State and Territory at the 2004 federal election was:

New South Wales	50
Victoria	37
Queensland	28
Western Australia	15
South Australia	11
Tasmania	5
Australian Capital Territory	2
Northern Territory	2

2004 federal election | 2

Behind the scenes



THE PRIME MINISTER, MR JOHN HOWARD, ANNOUNCED ON SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 2004 THAT AN ELECTION FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HALF THE SENATE WAS TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2004. IN THE HALF SENATE ELECTION, ELIGIBLE ELECTORS IN EACH STATE WERE CHOOSING SIX SENATORS TO SERVE A SIX YEAR TERM. ELECTORS IN THE TWO TERRITORIES WERE EACH VOTING FOR TWO SENATORS TO SERVE A MAXIMUM THREE YEAR TERM. THIS MEANT A TOTAL OF 40 SENATE VACANCIES WERE TO BE CONTESTED.

THE 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION WAS ALSO AN ELECTION FOR THE 150 VACANCIES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. ELECTORS IN EACH OF THE 150 DIVISIONS WERE ELECTING ONE MEMBER TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE A MAXIMUM TERM OF THREE YEARS.

Issue of the writs

The writs for the 2004 federal election were issued on Tuesday 31 August. The issue of the writ officially triggered the election process.

Senate: Eight separate writs were issued, one for the election of Senators in each State and Territory. The writ for the Senate election was issued by the Governor of each State to their respective State AEO; and the writs for the Senate election in the two Territories were issued by the Governor-General to each Territory's AEO.

House of Representatives: Eight separate writs were issued for the House of Representatives election—one for all divisions in each State and Territory. The writs for the House of Representatives elections were issued by the Governor-General to the Electoral Commissioner, who advised each of the 150 DROs of the election.



Election day must be a Saturday, at least 33 days after the issue of the writs

2004 federal election timetable

An election timetable is determined by the Constitution and the Act. The Act sets a minimum election period of 33 days and a maximum period of 58 days from the issue of the writs to election day. The actual dates for the 2004 federal election are presented in the right hand column below.

2004 FEDERAL ELECTION TIMETABLE

	MIN. AND MAX. PERIOD	2004 FEDERAL ELECTION DATE
<p>Expiry or dissolution of Parliament</p> <p>Parliament is dissolved and the Prime Minister announces the intention to hold an election.</p>		
<p>Issue of writs</p> <p>A writ commands an electoral officer to hold an election and contains dates for the close of rolls, close of nominations, election day and the return of the writ. (Constitution s.12, 32) (the Act s.151)</p>	0–10 days from dissolution of House of Representatives	Tuesday 31 August 2004
<p>Close of rolls</p> <p>Electors have until 8pm, seven days after the writs are issued to enrol or update their details on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll. (the Act s.155)</p>	7–17 days	Tuesday 7 September 2004
<p>Close of nominations</p> <p>Candidates must nominate by 12 noon on the date specified on the writs as close of nominations, 10 to 27 days after issue of the writ. (the Act s.156)</p>	10–37 days	Thursday 16 September 2004
<p>Declaration of nominations</p> <p>The public announcement of nominations received by 12 noon, followed by a draw for positions on the ballot paper, 24 hours after the close of nominations. (the Act s.176)</p>	11–38 days	Friday 17 September 2004
<p>Election day</p> <p>The day on which the majority of electors cast their vote at a polling place. It must be a Saturday and at least 33 days after the issue of the writs. (the Act s.157)</p>	33–68 days	Saturday 9 October 2004
<p>Return of writs</p> <p><i>Senate:</i> After the Senate polls are declared, the Australian Electoral Officer for each State and Territory returns the writ, endorsed with the names of the successful candidates, to the State Governor (or Governor-General in the case of the Territories).</p> <p><i>House of Representatives:</i> For the House of Representatives, the Electoral Commissioner endorses on the writ the name of each candidate elected for each division and returns the writs to the Governor-General. Writs must be returned within 100 days of their issue. (the Act s.159)</p>	110 days	by Thursday 11 November 2004
<p>Meeting of Parliament</p> <p>The new Parliament must meet within 30 days of the day appointed for the return of the writs. (Constitution s.5)</p>	140 days	Tuesday 16 November 2004

Behind the scenes



WHO COULD VOTE?

A PERSON WAS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION IF THEIR NAME WAS ON THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL ROLL BY CLOSE OF ROLLS FOR THE ELECTION AT 8PM, TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2004.

The electoral roll is a list of all people who are registered to vote at Australian elections. Australian citizens 18 years of age and over (with a few exceptions) must enrol to vote. Voting is compulsory in federal elections and referendums for enrolled electors.

Seventeen year olds may enrol and can vote if their 18th birthday falls on or before election day. British subjects who were on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll immediately before 26 January 1984, are also eligible to be on the electoral roll and vote in federal elections.

The following Australian citizens are not entitled to enrol and vote:

- people who are incapable of understanding the nature and significance of enrolment and voting
- prisoners serving a sentence of three years or more
- people who have been convicted of treason and not pardoned.

Close of rolls

When an election is announced, there are seven days from the issue of the writs for people to ensure that they are correctly enrolled before the electoral roll is closed.

During the 2004 federal election, a large number of Australians used the close of rolls week either to enrol for the first time or to check their enrolment details and if necessary to update these details. The AEC replied to almost 10,000 email enquiries during this period.

The AEC received a total of 423,975 enrolment cards in the week between the announcement of the 2004 election and the close of rolls date. Of the enrolment cards received in the last week, 78,816 were new enrolments.

There were 13,021,230 people enrolled to vote at the close of rolls for the 2004 federal election at 8pm, Tuesday 7 September. This figure included 17 year olds who would turn 18 by 9 October 2004 and would therefore be entitled to vote. This close of rolls figure compares with 12,636,631 electors who were enrolled at the close of rolls for the 2001 federal election.

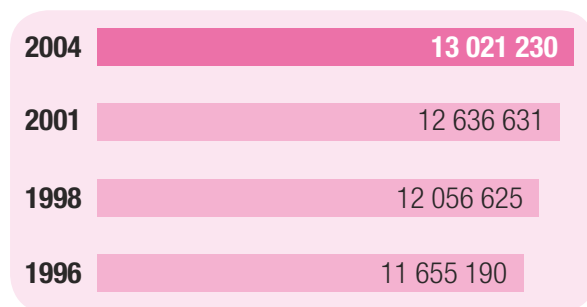
CLOSE OF ROLLS FIGURES BY STATE/TERRITORY

STATE/TERRITORY	TOTAL ENROLMENT
New South Wales	4 302 122
Victoria	3 292 409
Queensland	2 463 402
Western Australia	1 237 349
South Australia	1 049 814
Tasmania	339 589
Australian Capital Territory	224 896
Northern Territory	111 649
AUSTRALIA	13 021 230

These figures are accurate as at the close of rolls at 8pm on Tuesday, 7 September 2004 and include 13,803 enrolled 17 year olds who turned 18 by election day.

Comparative close of rolls enrolment figures for federal elections conducted since 1996 are presented in the graph below.

CLOSE OF ROLLS FIGURES 1996–2004



Note All other enrolment figures in this publication are close of rolls figures which have been adjusted since election day to give the exact number of people entitled to vote at the election. The adjustments include electors who died prior to election day and electors removed from the roll but who were entitled to be enrolled for the same division.

Special enrolment

Special enrolment arrangements are available to electors who qualify. The following services may assist electors who have special needs:

- people who are unable to complete and sign their own enrolment form due to a physical disability may have someone complete their form. These people are also able to apply to become general postal voters
- people with no fixed address may enrol
- people working in Antarctica can register as Antarctic electors to maintain their name on the roll and to make use of special voting arrangements at election time
- residents on Norfolk Island can enrol for a division in a State to which they have a connection, for the Division of Canberra in the ACT or for the Division of Solomon in the NT
- people who believe that the publication of their address on the roll would put their own, or their family's, safety at risk may apply for silent enrolment so that their address is not shown on the roll
- Members of the House of Representatives can choose to enrol in the electoral division which they represent and Senators can enrol in any division in the State/Territory they represent.

Overseas enrolment

A person who is already enrolled to vote at Commonwealth elections and is going overseas with an intention to return to Australia within six years, may apply to register as an overseas elector. This will ensure that his or her name is not removed from the roll and that he or she can vote while overseas. Australian citizens who are overseas and not enrolled, but would have been eligible if they were in Australia, and who:

- left Australia less than three years ago
- are going to be overseas for up to six years; and
- intend to return to Australia permanently

are able to enrol using a special enrolment form called 'Enrolment from outside Australia'. These forms are available on the AEC website www.aec.gov.au and from Australian embassies and consulates.

AT 7 SEPTEMBER 2004 THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF VOTERS HAD SPECIAL ENROLMENT:

STATE/ TERRITORY	17 YEAR OLD	NO FIXED ADDRESS	OVERSEAS	SILENT	ANTARCTIC	NORFOLK ISLAND
NSW	4205	1248	4937	12024	21	53
VIC	4208	1149	5025	9888	13	9
QLD	2006	1962	2442	8838	9	24
WA	1510	691	924	7603	11	1
SA	1085	487	606	4760	5	2
TAS	433	330	188	813	13	0
ACT	288	75	1909	1250	0	89
NT	68	123	162	262	3	0
Total	13803	6065	16193	45438	75	178

The electoral roll

After the close of rolls, extracts of data from the computerised roll management system are used to produce Certified Lists of voters and reference rolls.

CERTIFIED LISTS

The Certified List is the official electoral roll used on election day to mark off the names of voters. Each polling place is supplied with copies of the Certified List of voters for the division in which it is located. The list contains the name, address, date of birth and gender of electors with two black arrowhead markings (clock marks) about a centimetre apart beside the name of each person. At a polling place the polling official will draw a line between the arrowheads indicating that the person has been given their ballot papers. After an election the Certified Lists are electronically scanned to identify apparent non-voters and possible multiple voters.

For the 2004 election:

- 26,924 Certified Lists were printed, with the 150 electoral divisions receiving on average 179 Certified Lists, each comprising approximately 433 pages
- laser printing contractors were engaged in each State and the Australian Capital Territory at 11 separate secure sites
- the lists were printed on high-speed laser printers
- over 5.9 million A4 sheets of paper were used for printing the lists
- printing of the lists took 16 days to complete.



REFERENCE ROLLS

Reference rolls are also produced following the close of rolls for an election. They contain the same information as Certified Lists (without the clock marks) and are produced specifically as reference material. In accordance with the Act all House of Representatives candidates are entitled to a copy of the reference roll for the division for which they are standing, as soon as possible after the close of rolls. Following the results of the election, successful candidates in the



The Certified List

House of Representatives and Senate elections are also entitled to a copy of the reference roll. Reference rolls are also available for public inspection at the relevant divisional office.

For this election:

- some 6 500 reference rolls were printed in total
- this was an average of 43 rolls per division
- reference rolls were printed at one site in Victoria
- over 1.4 million sheets of paper were used in the printing of reference rolls.

Each AEC divisional office has an up to date electronic version of the electoral roll for their State or Territory available for viewing. An Australia wide up to date electronic version of the electoral roll is available for viewing at each AEC State Head Office, ACT Divisional Office and the Central Office in Canberra.

Behind the scenes



A PERSON COULD NOT BE ELECTED TO THE SENATE OR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT THE 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION UNLESS THEY HAD NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE BY THE CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER. THE NOMINATION DATE WAS EXTENDED BY ONE DAY IN THE DIVISION OF KALGOORLIE DUE TO THE DEATH OF A CANDIDATE IN THAT DIVISION. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO NOMINATE AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE ELECTION UNTIL THE WRITS HAD BEEN ISSUED AND NO ONE COULD NOMINATE FOR MORE THAN ONE ELECTION HELD ON ELECTION DAY.

Who could nominate as a candidate?

The eligibility qualifications for a candidate for the Senate and the House of Representatives are the same. To nominate as a candidate a person must be at least 18 years old, an Australian citizen, and an elector entitled to vote or a person qualified to become an elector. A person cannot nominate if, at the close of nominations, they do not meet all of the three eligibility requirements detailed above, are a current member of a State Parliament or Territory Legislative Assembly, or are disqualified by Section 44 of the Constitution.

Each candidate is required to pay a nomination deposit. At the 2004 election, a House of Representatives candidate was required to pay a \$350 deposit, which was refundable if the candidate achieved four per cent or more of the formal first preference votes for the relevant division. A Senate candidate was required to pay a deposit of \$700 which was refundable if the candidate (or if applicable, the Senate group in which the candidate was included) achieved four per cent or more of the formal first preference votes for the relevant State or Territory.

Declaration of nominations

Nominations for the 2004 federal election closed at 12 noon, Thursday 16 September 2004. Nominations were publicly declared 24 hours after the close of nominations at 12 noon, Friday 17 September (in the Division of Kalgoorlie, nominations were not declared until 12 noon, Saturday 18 September due to the death of a candidate). Nationally, 1 421 people nominated as candidates in the 2004 federal election. This figure included 330 candidates for the Senate and 1 091 candidates for the House of Representatives. There were 1 014 male candidates and 406 female candidates. (Note: details of gender were not provided for one candidate). See page 77 for Nominations by Gender.

Nominations overview

Some particular points of interest from the 2004 federal election:

- 97 more candidates nominated than for the previous federal election in 2001
- 406 female candidates and 1 014 males nominated
- the number of male candidates increased by 71 from 2001 and the number of female candidates increased by 25 from 2001. In 2001 there were 943 male and 381 female candidates
- 56 registered political parties fielded candidates compared to 49 registered parties at 2001
- the largest number of candidates fielded in a division was 14 in the Division of Greenway (NSW)
- the smallest number of candidates fielded in a division was four. This occurred in the Divisions of Riverina (NSW), Throsby (NSW) and Braddon (TAS).

Nominations system

Nominations were entered into the computerised nominations system at AEC divisional offices for House of Representatives candidates and at AEC State and Territory Head Offices for Senate candidates. The system produced a number of reports which were provided to the media, candidates, political parties and other interested people. This system also generated the artwork for the House of Representatives ballot papers. A national list of candidates was available soon after the last declarations of nominations were held in Western Australia. The list was distributed to members of the media, political parties, candidates and other interested people and placed on the AEC website.

Draw for ballot paper positions

The order in which candidates' names appeared on the ballot paper was determined by two random draws. The draws were conducted immediately following the public declarations of nominations and were open to candidates, media and the public. Draws for Senate ballot paper positions were conducted by each AEO

at their capital city head office. Draws for positions on the House of Representatives ballot papers were conducted by DROs at each of the 150 divisional offices. A double randomised system was used in the draw for both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

In the House of Representatives there were two draws. The first gave each candidate a number and the second draw determined the order in which each candidate appeared on the ballot paper. The same process occurred for the Senate, however, this draw is conducted in two separate parts, one part for groups and the other for ungrouped candidates. Each part consists of two draws. The first draw allocates a number to each group/ ungrouped candidate and the second draw determines the order in which each group/ ungrouped candidate will appear on the ballot paper.



After nominations have been declared, a draw takes place to determine the order of candidates' names on the ballot paper

Senate group voting tickets

Within 24 hours of the public declaration of nominations, Senate groups were able to lodge a voting ticket with the relevant State or Territory AEO. A voting ticket is a written statement setting out a preference ordering of all candidates in the election. When electors choose to vote for a group above the line on the Senate ballot paper, their preferences follow the ordering lodged by the Group.

Booklets setting out copies of all voting tickets lodged in that State or Territory were available at every polling place on election day. This information was also available on the AEC website.

Polling arrangements | 5

Behind the scenes



THE AEC UNDERTAKES CONSTANT ELECTION PREPARATIONS SO THAT IT IS READY TO CONDUCT A FEDERAL ELECTION WHENEVER IT IS ANNOUNCED. AT THE CONCLUSION OF ONE ELECTION THE AEC REVIEWS THE CONDUCT OF THAT EVENT AND BEGINS PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR THE NEXT ELECTION. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, A LARGE NUMBER OF TASKS WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE ELECTION DAY THAT CAN ONLY BE COMMENCED ONCE THE ELECTION IS ANNOUNCED. THESE TASKS INVOLVE ORGANISING A LARGE QUANTITY OF MATERIALS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PEOPLE ALL AROUND AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS.

Printing of ballot papers

The AEC commenced printing the ballot papers on the Friday night following the draws for ballot paper positions.

For the 2004 federal election:

- approximately 40.6 million ballot papers were printed
- approximately 290 tonnes of paper were used to print the papers.

The AEC is required to account for every ballot paper from the time they are printed until they are no longer required. Strict security surrounds the printing, handling and storage of ballot papers to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

Camera ready artwork of the ballot papers was produced directly from the AEC's computerised nominations system. The House of Representatives ballot papers were produced in a numbered cheque-book style pad which enabled easier handling and enhanced accountability.

In the week beginning 20 September 2004, ballot papers were distributed to the 150 AEC divisional offices around Australia. On receipt of the ballot papers, the DROs counted them and securely stored the majority in readiness for election day. A number of the ballot papers were to be used before election day for conducting pre-poll, mobile and postal voting.

The AEC also distributed some 117 100 House of Representatives and some 104 600 Senate ballot papers to 100 Australian embassies, high commissions and consulates, to enable Australians overseas to vote.



Election materials are distributed across Australia

The total number of ballot papers (excluding those used for postal and overseas votes) printed for each State and Territory was as follows:

STATE/TERRITORY	SENATE	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NSW	5 389 700	7 896 500
VIC	4 358 000	6 708 000
QLD	2 963 300	4 039 280
WA	1 662 000	2 308 050
SA	1 331 100	1 859 350
TAS	454 000	543 600
ACT	343 100	318 900
NT	200 000	200 000
TOTAL	16 701 200	23 873 680

At the 2004 election an automated postal vote system was used to print an additional 762 206 House of Representatives ballot papers. 1 022 686 additional Senate ballot papers were printed separately to be used for postal voting.

Training

The AEC requires a large number of trained staff, both permanent and temporary, to assist eligible Australians to cast their vote. At the announcement of an election each DRO has the responsibility of recruiting and training the polling officials required for their division.

Training for polling officials is conducted to ensure that the voting and the scrutiny (the counting of votes) are carried out efficiently and professionally in accordance with the Act.

Over the conduct of numerous elections the AEC has developed and fine-tuned a training package for polling officials which includes manuals and practical exercises. Some polling officials are also required to attend presentations conducted by the DRO or other AEC staff members. Many election staff have worked at a number of elections, building up extensive experience.

At the 2004 election:

- approximately 67 000 temporary staff assisted in the conduct of the election
- 74 400 copies of training CD ROMs were produced
- over 74 000 manuals were printed
- 450 call centre operators were trained to answer inquiries.

Pre-poll and postal voting

To enable as many eligible electors as possible to cast a vote the AEC provided a number of alternative arrangements for voting. Electors unable to vote on election day were able to cast a vote before election day at a pre-poll voting centre or could apply to vote by post.

Special sporting and cultural events

At the 2004 federal election, there were a number of sporting and cultural events happening on election day or over the election weekend. While the message to electors was to 'vote before you go' the AEC did provide additional resources to cater for the electors at many of these events. This included opening additional polling places for both local and interstate electors in the lead up to and on election day and increasing staffing levels at other polling places.

Some of the events where additional resources were provided included:

- Sydney Motor Show at Darling Harbour NSW
- Bathurst V8 race at Mount Panorama NSW
- Cardross Spring Flower Show VIC
- Koondrook Bridge Centenary VIC
- Manangatang Race meeting VIC
- Rainbow Rainbow Centenary VIC
- Warracknabeal School reunion VIC
- Melbourne to Warnambool bike race VIC
- Kyneton Jazz Festival VIC
- Farmers Market in Bendigo VIC
- Uncorked Festival in Bendigo VIC
- National Women's Hockey tournament at Curtin University WA
- Spring in the Valley Festival (approximately 35 000 visitors through the Swan Valley wine growing region) WA
- Glendambo Gymkhana (SA)
- The Burra Show (SA)
- Port Elliott Show (SA)

PRE-POLL VOTING

For this election 309 pre-poll voting centres were set up:

- in all capital cities
- in major regional centres in each electoral division
- in remote areas of Australia
- at airports around the country for Australians travelling interstate or overseas
- for defence personnel
- at special sporting and cultural events.



Voters go to an interstate voting centre in Hobart

POSTAL VOTING

Electors who had difficulty getting to a polling place were able to apply for a postal vote. Postal vote application forms were available from AEC offices and post offices. The ballot papers were then sent out by the AEC to the elector at their nominated address anywhere within and outside Australia. Electors voting by post had to have their completed ballot papers in the mail to the AEC before election day and under electoral law, the AEC waited up to 13 days after election day for postal votes to be received. Electors with a disability, silent electors, prisoners, those in remote areas, and people who have religious objections to attending a polling place on election day can apply to become a General Postal Voter (GPV). This means that for future federal elections they will be automatically sent out their ballot papers.

A record number of almost 760 000 postal votes were issued for the 2004 federal election. A significant administrative issue for the AEC arising out of Election 2004 related to the delay in processing some postal vote packages to voters. As soon as problems were identified steps were taken to ensure that electors affected were still able to vote. After the election the AEC contracted Minter Ellison to conduct an inquiry into postal voting at the election. Minter Ellison has



Filling out a declaration envelope

made recommendations to the AEC identifying ways to help improve postal voting procedures for the next electoral event.

Overseas voting

The opportunity for eligible Australians living, working or holidaying overseas to vote has become an important part of a federal election. Australians overseas during the 2004 federal election were able to cast their vote at 100 overseas voting posts in the two weeks leading up to election day. They were able to visit their nearest Australian Embassy, consulate or high commission and vote in person.

At the 2004 federal election:

- there were 100 overseas posts in 75 countries at which Australians could vote
- a total of 68 544 votes were issued overseas
- the most votes, 20 716, were issued in London.

For a full list of votes issued overseas refer to Appendix B.

Mobile polling

AEC mobile polling teams take portable polling places to many electors who are not able to get to a polling place. Mobile polling was carried out around Australia during the 12 days before election day and on election day.

HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES

Mobile polling teams visited selected hospitals and nursing homes to enable patients and residents to cast their vote. The teams provided a personal service by bringing the ballot papers, ballot box and other information to electors who were elderly or unable to leave their beds. At the 2004 federal election, 2 107 hospitals and nursing homes around Australia were visited by a total of 445 mobile polling teams in the days leading up to and including election day.

PRISONS

Mobile polling teams also visited a small number of prisons and remand centres to take the votes of prisoners serving a sentence of three years or less who were entitled to vote. At the 2004 federal election, 17 mobile polling teams visited 21 prisons and remand centres in the five days leading up to election day. The majority of eligible electors serving a prison sentence voted by post.

REMOTE MOBILE POLLING

Geographic remoteness was no barrier to helping electors cast their vote in the 2004 federal election. Mobile polling teams visited electors living in remote locations in the 12 days leading up to and including election day. The AEC used road, air and sea transport to visit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their outstations, pastoral properties, small towns, tourist resorts and mine sites. A number of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were recruited to identify, interpret for and assist with the special needs of electors at many remote mobile polling locations. At the 2004 election, 43 mobile polling teams visited 382 remote locations in the Northern Territory (Division of Lingiari), Western Australia (Division of Kalgoorlie), South Australia (Divisions of Grey and Barker) and Queensland (Division of Leichhardt).

In the Division of Lingiari:

- 20 teams visited 259 locations in the 12 days before election day. 47 of these locations were also established as interstate voting centres whereby electors enrolled interstate could also cast their votes. Two of the teams also visited 13 locations in South

Australia (Division of Grey). These locations were also established as interstate voting centres.

- The 60 interstate voting centres organised by the Northern Territory provided opportunities for an additional 400 electors to cast their votes from remote locations. For some of these electors, it was the first time they had been able to cast their vote in person, rather than using postal votes.
- Teams commenced polling on 27 September, with the first polling location at Wallace Rockhole in Central Australia.
- Teams used four wheel drives, fixed wing aircraft and helicopters for transport.

In the Division of Kalgoorlie:

- 14 teams visited 52 locations in the 12 days before election day
- The division is the largest in Australia covering an area of 2 295 354 square kilometres. Due to its size, remote polling was organised from the division's two permanent offices in Kalgoorlie and Karratha
- the teams used planes and four-wheel drives for transport.

In the Division of Leichhardt:

- 3 mobile teams visited 19 remote locations in the five days before election day
- teams used planes, helicopters, water taxis and four-wheel drive vehicles for transport
- the visits were advertised through posters, newspaper, radio, television and letters sent to community organisations.

In the Division of Grey:

- 5 teams visited 36 communities
- teams used four wheel drive vehicles and fixed wing aircraft for transport
- 13 locations in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands and Far North of SA near the Northern Territory border were serviced by two teams operating out of the Northern Territory.

In the Division of Barker:

- 1 mobile team visited 3 locations in the two days prior to election day.

Antarctic voting

Working and living in one of the most challenging locations in the world did not prevent a group of Australian electors stationed in the Antarctic from voting in the 2004 federal election. A total of 63 eligible electors were living at Australia's Antarctic research bases at Mawson, Casey and Davis and on sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island during the election. Ballot papers were faxed to Antarctica by the AEC's Hobart office. At each base an Antarctic Returning Officer was appointed from the staff and polling could take place at any time once the materials were received at the bases. After the close of polls each Antarctic Returning Officer phoned the results through to the AEC's Hobart office. Their votes were transcribed onto normal ballot papers and despatched to the electors' home divisions. The originals filled out by Antarctic electors were packaged up and returned to Hobart on the first available supply ship.

Voting is not compulsory for Antarctic electors as the secrecy of the vote cannot be assured, because of the process used to transmit the results. At this election, 60 votes were recorded in the Antarctic, compared with 88 votes in 2001.

Infrastructure logistics

Number of ordinary polling places	7 729
Number of mobile teams who visited special hospitals	445
Number of locations visited	2 107
Number of mobile teams who visited remote outback locations	43
Number of locations visited	382
Number of mobile teams who visited prisons	17
Number of locations visited	21
Number of pre-poll voting centres	309
Number of overseas polling places	100

Voting equipment

A large amount of cardboard equipment and paper materials are produced for each federal election. Whenever possible, the AEC uses cardboard and paper equipment manufactured from recycled materials that are in turn recyclable or reusable.

At the 2004 federal election over 237 900 separate pieces of equipment were produced.

This equipment included:

CARDBOARD EQUIPMENT

Ballot boxes	45 505
Voting screens	150 599
Queuing signs	10 462
Recycling bins	13 893
Tables	6 875

PAPER MATERIALS

Postal vote envelopes	952 559
Declaration vote envelopes	3 456 000



Voting screens are packed away to be used at the next electoral event

Behind the scenes



VOTING IS COMPULSORY AT FEDERAL ELECTIONS FOR ALL AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS 18 YEARS OR OVER WHO ARE ON THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL ROLL AT THE CLOSE OF ROLLS FOR THE ELECTION.

Types of votes

Australians can cast their vote in several ways:

- ordinary vote: a vote cast in a polling booth in the elector's home division on election day. This is the simplest way to vote and the method used by the majority of electors
- absent vote: a vote cast by an elector out of their home division but still within their home State or Territory on election day
- pre-poll or postal vote: an early vote cast before election day at a pre-poll voting centre or by post. These types of votes can be cast by an elector who will not be within their home State or Territory on election day, is seriously ill, infirm, unable to leave work, or for religious reasons is unable to attend a polling place
- provisional vote: a vote cast in circumstances where an elector's name cannot be found on the roll or the name has already been marked off the roll. The vote cannot be counted until a careful check of enrolment records and entitlements has been made.

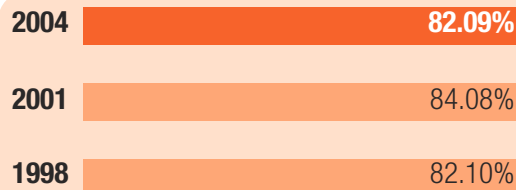


Naval submariners aboard HMAS Farncomb casting early votes in Election 2004

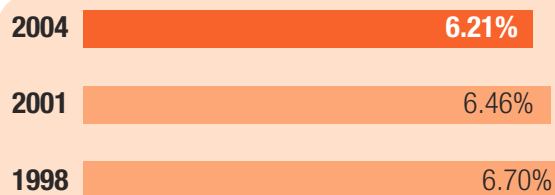
An elector making a postal, pre-poll, absent or provisional vote must complete a declaration giving their personal details. These details will be checked by the DRO prior to the counting of votes (the preliminary scrutiny).

The graphs below provide a comparison of the way in which Australians voted in the Senate at the last three elections:

ORDINARY VOTES



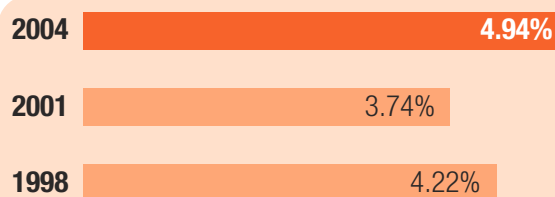
ABSENT VOTES



PRE-POLL VOTES



POSTAL VOTES



PROVISIONAL



Voting systems

The electoral systems used to elect members to the Senate and House of Representatives are different.

SENATE

Candidates for the Senate stand for election in a particular State or Territory. It is a Constitutional requirement that each State is equally represented in the Senate regardless of population. There is a total of 12 Senators for each State who are elected for a six year term. The two Territories are each represented by two Senators who are elected for a term equivalent to the duration of the House of Representatives (a maximum of three years).

Senators are elected by a proportional representation system. All the electors in a State or Territory are counted as the one electorate and vote in a number of Senators. To be elected, a candidate must win a proportion of the votes, also known as a quota.

There are a total of 76 positions in the Senate. When a double dissolution is declared all 76 Senate positions are made vacant. Forty Senate vacancies are contested at a half-Senate election when it is held simultaneously with a House election—six from each State and the four from the Territories. The 2004 federal election was a half-Senate election.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Candidates for the House of Representatives stand for election in a particular electoral division, and are elected for a term of a maximum of three years. Members of the House of Representatives are elected using the preferential voting system, with the electors in each division electing one Member to represent them. To be elected, a candidate must win the absolute majority of votes, that is more than half the formal votes cast for that division. All 150 positions in the House of Representatives become vacant at a federal election.

How to vote

HOW TO VOTE FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. On the ballot paper for the House of Representatives the number '1' is written in the box of the elector's first choice.
2. The elector continues to number the boxes until every box has been numbered in order of his or her choice, with no duplication or omission of any number.
3. The ballot paper is folded and placed in the ballot box.



How to vote

HOW TO VOTE FOR THE SENATE

On the Senate ballot paper an elector can either vote above the line or below the line, but not both.

Above the line: If an elector chooses to vote above the line, the number '1' is written in one of the boxes above the line. All other boxes on the paper are left blank. If an elector votes above the line their preferences will be counted in the way chosen by the group or party voted for. This is called a group ticket vote. Posters or booklets are displayed at all polling places showing how each party or group has decided to have their preferences distributed. Only registered political parties or groups who have lodged a group voting ticket have a box above the

line. At the 2004 federal election 95.85 per cent of voters chose to vote above the line.

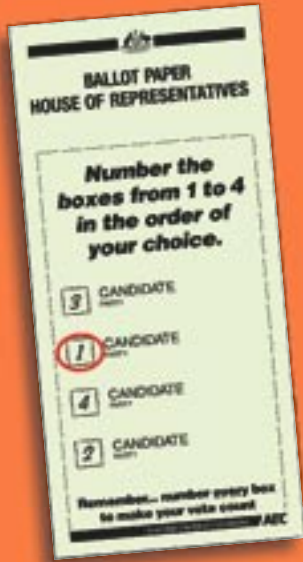
Below the line: If an elector chooses to vote below the line, all the boxes in the bottom section of the ballot paper must be numbered sequentially in the order of the elector's choice. The number '1' is written in the box of the elector's first choice candidate and the numbering is continued until there is a number in every box below the line, with no duplication or omission of any number. All the candidates contesting the Senate election have a box below the line.

The image shows a Senate Ballot Paper form. At the top, it says 'You may vote in one of two ways'. Below this, there are two options: 'either' and 'or'. The 'either' option shows a row of six boxes, each labeled 'PARTY'. The 'or' option shows a grid of boxes. The first four columns are labeled 'PARTY' and each has three boxes labeled 'CANDIDATE'. The fifth column is labeled 'PARTY' and has three boxes labeled 'CANDIDATE'. The sixth column is labeled 'UNGROUPED' and has three boxes labeled 'CANDIDATE'. The AEC logo is at the bottom left.

How the votes are counted

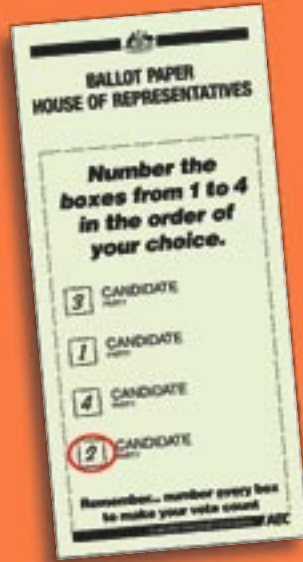
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To be elected, a House of Representatives candidate must get more than half the formal votes cast for the electoral division that they are contesting.



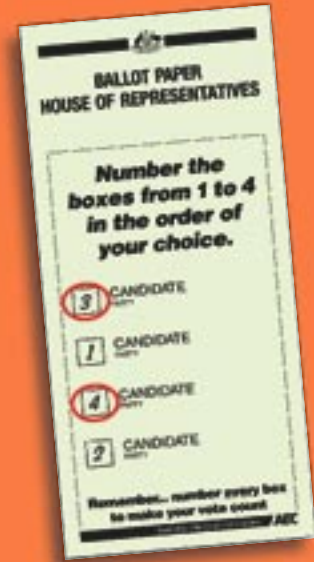
First preferences

First, all of the number '1' votes are counted for each candidate. If a candidate gets more than half the total of these number '1' votes (i.e. an absolute majority: $50\% + 1$), that candidate will be elected.



Second preferences

If, however, no candidate has more than half of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded. This candidate's votes are then transferred to the remaining candidates according to the second preferences shown by voters on their ballot papers.



Further preferences

If still no candidate has more than half the votes, the candidate who now has the fewest votes is excluded and the votes are transferred according to the next preference shown for a candidate who has not been excluded. This process continues until one candidate has more than half the total votes and is declared 'elected'.



An example

Three candidates Nick, Michael and Jenny stand for election. After the election the ballot papers are counted and there are 60 000 formal votes. Therefore the absolute majority needed to win the seat is 30 001 (50% +1).

Nick, Michael and Jenny received the following first preference or number '1' votes.



Nick	Michael	Jenny
15 000	23 000	22 000

Nobody has gained an absolute majority so the person with the lowest number of first preferences is excluded. In this example, Nick is excluded, and the second preferences on his ballot papers are then distributed to either Michael or Jenny. 6 300 of the total number of people who voted for Nick put the number 2 in the box for Michael. The remaining 8 700 put the number 2 in the box

for Jenny. This gives Michael a total of 29 300 and Jenny a total of 30 700.



Michael	Jenny
23 000	22 000
+ 6 300	+ 8 700
<hr/>	<hr/>
29 300	30 700

Now that Jenny has 30 700 votes, which is an absolute majority, she becomes the elected member.

This is a very simple example. The process could involve more than the two steps shown above. If there were more than three candidates, the candidates with the fewest votes will continue to be excluded and their preferences transferred, or distributed, until one candidate has an absolute majority.



How the votes are counted

SENATE

The Senate count is different to the House of Representatives and is more lengthy and complicated. A simplified summary of the main steps is as follows:

Working out the quota: To be elected to the Senate, a candidate needs to gain a quota of the formal votes. The quota is calculated by dividing the total number of formal ballot papers by one more than the number of Senators to be elected, and adding '1' to the result (ignoring any remainder). This is how the quota for New South Wales was calculated at the 2004 Senate election:

$$\frac{3\,974\,565}{(6 + 1)} + 1 = 567\,796^*$$

Therefore the quota, or number of votes required to be elected, in New South Wales at the 2004 election was 567 796

Counting the first preference votes

This is done as for a House of Representatives election: all the number '1' votes are counted for each candidate. Candidates who receive a quota,

or more, of these first preference votes are elected immediately.

Transferring the surplus

Any surplus votes these elected candidates receive (i.e. votes in excess of the quota they needed) are transferred to the candidates who were the second choice of the voters. However, they are transferred at a reduced rate because the first candidate has already 'used up' some of the value of these votes in being elected.

As a result of this process of transferring surplus votes, other candidates may be elected. If, however, all surplus votes from elected candidates are transferred and there are still some unfilled positions, another stage of the count begins:

Exclusion of unsuccessful candidates

Starting with the candidate who has the least number of votes, unelected candidates are now excluded from the count and their votes are passed on to the remaining candidates to whom the voters have given their preferences. The process continues until all Senate positions are filled.



An example

In this example three Senators are to be elected. The total number of formal votes for the 'State' is 2400. Therefore the QUOTA = $\{2\ 400 \text{ divided by } (3+1)\} + 1 = 601$

All the ballot papers are then examined to see how many number '1' votes each candidate received.

Maria	240
Linh	550
Gerard	730
Jacqui	140
Kevin	590
Monica	150
2 400 votes	

Gerard is the only candidate to receive the quota of 601 immediately and so is elected. The 129 votes he received in excess of the quota are called surplus votes. The surplus of 129 is transferred to the remaining candidates by transferring all Gerard's votes at less than their full value:

No. of surplus votes = 129

Total no. of Gerard's 1st preference votes = 730

Therefore the transfer value is $129 \text{ divided by } 730 = 0.177$

The list below shows the number of second preferences received by each candidate on Gerard's 730 ballot papers.

Maria	100
Linh	400
Jacqui	20
Kevin	150
Monica	60

These ballot papers are then multiplied by their transfer value and then added to the first preference totals.

	TRANSFER VOTES**	1ST PREF VOTES	= NEW TOTAL
Maria	$100 \times 0.177 = 18$	+ 240	= 258
Linh	$400 \times 0.177 = 71$	+ 550	= 621
Jacqui	$20 \times 0.177 = 4$	+ 140	= 144
Kevin	$150 \times 0.177 = 27$	+ 590	= 617
Monica	$60 \times 0.177 = 11$	+ 150	= 161

Now that Linh and Kevin have also reached the quota, the three vacancies have been filled.

Note: If all the vacancies have not been filled after the surplus votes have been transferred, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is excluded. The excluded candidate's ballot papers are distributed according to preferences, at the value they are received, to the remaining candidates. The distribution of preferences from excluded candidates continues until the required number of Senators is elected.

* Note: When determining the quota, any remainder is disregarded.

** Note: For simplicity the figures shown in this example have been rounded up. During the actual scrutiny there is no rounding and losses by fraction can occur.



Formal and informal votes

Ballot papers correctly marked according to the rules for voting are called formal votes and only formal votes contribute to determining the results of an election. Ballot papers that do not satisfy these rules are regarded as informal and after their total has been tallied they are excluded from any counting.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A House of Representatives ballot paper is informal if:

- it is unmarked
- it has not received the initials of the presiding officer and is not considered authentic
- ticks or crosses have been used
- only one number is shown
- it has writing on it which identifies the elector
- more than one box has been left blank
- numbers have been repeated
- the elector's intention is not clear.

SENATE

A Senate ballot paper is informal if:

- it is unmarked
- it has not received the initials of the presiding officer and is not considered authentic
- it has writing on it which identifies the elector
- the elector's intention is not clear.

A vote above the line will be informal if:

- it has no first preference mark
- there is more than one first preference mark.

A vote below the line is informal if:

- it has no first preference mark
- a tick or cross is used as a first preference mark
- there is more than one first preference mark
- less than 90 per cent of the boxes have been numbered
- there are more than three acceptable errors.

INFORMAL VOTING

At each election, the AEC undertakes numerous activities to inform electors of the correct way to vote in the Senate and House of Representatives. These activities are aimed at minimising the number of voters who cast an informal vote and therefore waste their vote.

See page 114 for Informal Voting Statistics.

Election day | 7

Behind the scenes



ELECTION DAY IS ALWAYS ON A SATURDAY AND MUST BE AT LEAST 33 DAYS AFTER THE ISSUE OF THE WRITS. FOR THE 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION, ELECTION DAY WAS SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER 2004.

Polling places

At the 2004 federal election, there were 7 729 polling places operating on election day. They were set up mainly in schools or community halls with the DRO in each division having selected the premises as part of their election preparations. As far as practicable, and given the limited notice of an election, DROs select available buildings which have wheelchair access. All polling places were advertised in major newspapers on the Friday before election day and the places with full wheelchair access and access with assistance were identified. A list of polling places for the 2004 federal election was also published on the AEC website.

Polling places were open between the hours of 8am and 6pm.

Polling places were staffed by the following people:

- an Officer in Charge (OIC)
- a Second in Charge (2IC) at large polling places
- an Inquiry officer at large polling places
- declaration vote issuing officers
- ordinary vote issuing officers
- a ballot box guard
- a queue controller at large polling places

The doors to the polling places shut at 6pm sharp. Electors inside at closing time were able to complete their vote but no one else was able to enter to vote.

The majority of electors cast an ordinary vote in the 2004 federal election. In addition, interstate polling places were available at a number of locations for electors not in their home State or Territory to cast their vote on election day.

How-to-vote cards

Walking towards the entrance of a polling place, electors are usually offered how-to-vote cards by political party workers and representatives of other candidates. Electors are not required to accept these cards and by law these workers must remain six metres away from the entrance of the polling place.

The how-to-vote cards show how particular candidates would like electors to fill in their ballot papers and electors are able to take a card in with them when they vote. Electors may choose to ignore the cards if they wish.

Issuing of ballot papers

Each elector was asked the following three questions by a polling official before they were issued with their ballot papers:

1. What is your full name?
2. What is your address?
3. Have you voted before in this election?

Polling officials were able to ask for additional information, such as the elector's date of birth, where necessary, to assist them in identifying the elector's name on the Certified List.

The official then placed a mark next to the elector's name on the Certified List, initialed the ballot papers and handed them to the elector.

Each elector was issued with one green ballot paper for the House of Representatives and one white ballot paper for the Senate.

Each elector then went alone to a voting screen to mark their ballot papers in privacy. Under the Act the AEC must provide separate voting compartments to ensure the secrecy of the vote.

Each voting compartment is provided with a pencil but electors may use their own pen if they wish. The elector then folds their completed ballot papers and places each ballot paper into a ballot box.

The polling place in Australia that issued the most votes in 2004 was Narre Warren South in the Division of Holt (Victoria). It issued 7 823 votes on election day.

DECLARATION VOTES

In addition to issuing ordinary votes, declaration officers at each polling place issues absent and provisional votes during the day. Electors casting these types of votes are required to fill in a declaration envelope into which they put their completed ballot papers. The sealed declaration envelope is then put into the ballot box.

Scrutineers during polling

Candidates are not permitted to take part in the actual conduct of an election. However, they may appoint scrutineers as personal representatives to observe both the voting and the counting of votes at every polling place.



Tea Tree public hall in Tasmania, one of over 7000 polling places open on election day

Behind the scenes



THE COUNTING OF VOTES, KNOWN AS THE SCRUTINY, BEGINS IN EACH POLLING PLACE AFTER THEY CLOSE THEIR DOORS AT 6PM ON ELECTION DAY.

Counting at polling places

Polling officials are required to complete four main tasks at the close of polls in the following order:

1. Count the first preferences on the House of Representatives ballot papers
2. Conduct a two-candidate-preferred (TCP) count of the House of Representatives ballot papers
3. Count the first preferences on the Senate ballot papers; and
4. Count and sort the declaration vote envelopes received during the day (these remain unopened).

Only ordinary votes can be counted on election night. Absent and provisional votes cast at the polling place are put aside as checks must be made at the divisional office to ensure that these ballot papers are eligible to be included in the count.

House of Representatives count on election night

Immediately after the doors close the polling officials open and empty the House of Representatives ballot boxes. The green ballot papers are unfolded and all the number '1' votes (first preferences) are counted for each candidate and put into separate piles. The informal ballot papers are also counted and set aside separately. The first preference results for each candidate are tabulated and phoned through to the DRO, along with the number of informal ballot papers. The DRO enters the figures received from each polling place in their division into the AEC's national computerised Election Night System. The figures entered into the computer system are transmitted to the National Tally Room in Canberra where they are available on computer terminals and displayed on the National Tally Board.



700 members of the media attended the National Tally Room at Exhibition Park in Canberra

This information is also made available in a virtual tally room on the AEC's website and provided to television networks.

TWO-CANDIDATE-PREFERRED COUNT FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Polling officials then conduct a two-candidate-preferred (TCP) count, which is a distribution of preferences to two selected candidates. The TCP count is conducted to give an early indication of who is most likely to win each seat as this is not always clear from first preferences. The AEC selects the two candidates for the TCP count based on a number of factors including historical voting patterns in previous elections. The names of the two candidates are kept confidential until the close of the poll. The ballot papers for all other candidates are examined to see which of the two selected candidates the elector has put ahead in their preferences. This result is then tabulated and telephoned to the DRO, who in turn enters it into the computerised Election Night System, where it is made available at the National Tally Room and to a wider audience on the Virtual Tally Room.

Senate count on election night

Following the House of Representatives count, the polling officials open and empty the Senate ballot boxes.

The white ballot papers are unfolded and all the number '1' votes for groups and for ungrouped candidates below the line are counted. First preference votes for groups are determined by counting separately and then combining the number '1' votes for groups above the line, and the number '1' votes for individual members of groups below the line. The first preference votes for groups and ungrouped candidates are tabulated and phoned through to the DRO, who enters these figures into the computerised Election Night System. Because Senate results cannot be calculated until the Statewide total of votes used to determine the 'quota' is known, it is usually not possible to get more than a general impression of the Senate results on election night. The polling officials then place all the House of Representatives and Senate ballot papers into sealed parcels and deliver them, and the declaration votes to the DRO.

Scrutineers during the scrutiny

Candidates may appoint scrutineers as their personal representatives to observe the counting of the votes at polling places. Scrutineers have the right to observe all stages of the scrutiny and can challenge the formality of ballot papers but they cannot touch any ballot paper.

National tally room

The National Tally Room (NTR) is organised by the AEC to provide a central point for the display of election results on election night. The NTR is one of Australia's largest media gatherings with representation from the radio, print and television media. Election results are transmitted from every divisional office around Australia via the computerised Election Night System. The results are displayed on rows of computer terminals which are available to the media and members of registered political parties. The results are also simultaneously fed to the television networks who present their election coverage from temporary sets constructed at the back of the NTR. A manual backup system using facsimile and telephones is installed in case of computer problems. Election figures started coming into the 2004 NTR at approximately 5.20pm, mainly from the smaller polling places in Tasmania. The figures kept coming in until midnight when the final Western Australian figures for the night were available.

The election figures for the House of Representatives are also displayed on a manual tally board which dominates the front of the NTR. The tally board provides a backdrop for the television coverage of the election and is read by the many members of the public who visit the NTR. The tally board also provides a backup system in case of computer failure. The AEC also

provided computer terminals directly linked to the election results system to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

NATIONAL TALLY ROOM PREPARATIONS

The NTR for the 2004 federal election was located at Exhibition Park in Canberra. It took about two weeks to build, three days to dismantle and many months of detailed planning to organise.

Transforming the empty hall into the central point on election night was a massive logistical exercise. The AEC had access to the building from 27 September when the work began on:

- laying the temporary floor
- building the 35 metre x 7 metre tally board
- allocating space to the media, parties and television networks
- organising the electricity supply, air conditioning, telecommunication lines and computer cabling.

Elaborate security arrangements were in place during the building of the tally room and on election night. To ensure the smooth running of the NTR the AEC also conducted a rehearsal on the Thursday before election day to test the computer system and to provide training for the casual staff employed on the National Tally Board and in divisional offices throughout Australia.



Temporary studios broadcast election information to millions across Australia

The NTR cost approximately \$650 000 to organise. This included the hire of venue, communication and computing facilities, equipment hire, casual staff wages and security. The television networks met the costs of constructing their own sets.

NATIONAL TALLY ROOM LOGISTICS

The NTR included:

- 700 members of the media
- four major and two minor purpose-built television studios
- 100 political party workers and Members of Parliament

- 160 international and other official guests
- 150 AEC and other NTR workers
- 2 400 members of the public (a maximum of about 300 at any one time).

On the technical side there were:

- 84 terminals, four printers and 7 separate data feeds
- six kilometres of telephone cables
- 8.5 kilometres of computer cabling
- two mobile telephone repeater stations
- in excess of 300 mobile and 150 static telephones
- up to 650 amps of electrical load (enough to power a small town).

Scrutiny after election night | 9

Behind the scenes



THE INITIAL COUNTING OF THE VOTES CONDUCTED ON ELECTION NIGHT IS FOLLOWED BY A 'FRESH SCRUTINY' OF BOTH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE BALLOT PAPERS. THIS FRESH SCRUTINY IS CONDUCTED BY THE DRO AND COMMENCES ON THE MONDAY AFTER ELECTION DAY IN DIVISIONAL OFFICES.

Fresh scrutiny of ordinary votes

The DRO counts all ordinary votes received from every polling place in their division. Some ballot papers which were treated as informal on election night may be admitted to the count by the DRO, and similarly any ballots previously regarded as formal may be reclassified as informal.

Declaration vote scrutiny

The preliminary scrutiny of postal and pre-poll votes begins from the Monday before election day. The preliminary scrutiny of absent and provisional votes begins on the Monday after election day.

A postal vote will be accepted for further scrutiny if the DRO is satisfied that the elector is enrolled (or is entitled to be enrolled) for the division; their signature on the postal vote certificate is genuine and properly witnessed; and the vote contained in the envelope was recorded prior to the close of the poll. The AEC must wait 13 days after election day to receive postal votes before it can finalise counting. This ensures that electors in remote areas and overseas are not disenfranchised.

A pre-poll, absent or provisional vote will be accepted for further scrutiny if the DRO is satisfied that the elector is enrolled (or entitled to be enrolled) for the division; and that the certificate or declaration has been properly signed and witnessed.

All divisions commenced the preliminary scrutiny of pre-poll and postal votes in the week preceding election day. A further scrutiny of pre-poll votes was undertaken in all divisions on the Sunday after election day.

FURTHER SCRUTINY

Once a postal, pre-poll, absent or provisional vote is admitted to the further scrutiny, the envelope is opened and the ballot paper is taken out, without being unfolded, and is placed in the ballot box. It is then treated in the same

way as an ordinary ballot paper. Further scrutiny for postal, absent and provisional votes cannot commence until the Monday after election day.

Computerised senate scrutiny

The Senate scrutiny treats ballot papers marked above the line separately from ballot papers marked below the line. The Senate ballot papers marked above the line are manually counted in the divisional office and the first preference figures for each party and group are tallied.

The ballot papers marked below the line are forwarded progressively to a central scrutiny centre in each capital city where the computerised scrutiny takes place.

The below the line preferences of each ballot paper are entered into a computer. The above the line totals for each party and group are then entered into the computer which has been programmed to distribute the preferences according to the group voting tickets lodged with the AEC. The above the line and below the line votes are then combined by the computer which calculates the quota, transfers surpluses, eliminates unsuccessful candidates and distributes preferences to produce the result of the Senate election.

Scanning

After the election all the Certified Lists are electronically scanned to identify apparent non-voters and possible multiple voters.

The scanners identify from the Certified Lists:

- whether or not a voter's name has been marked off
- the name of the polling place and the issuing point at which the voter's name was marked; and
- any voters against whose names more than one mark has been recorded.

Two reports are produced from the scanning results:

- a report providing the names of those electors against whom no mark has been shown. These are identified as apparent non-voters
- a report showing the names of voters against whom more than one mark appears. These are identified as apparent multiple voters.

Following identification, DROs write to all these voters seeking details as to why they did not vote or why

more than one mark appears against their name on the Certified List.

At the 2004 federal election scanning took place at permanent and temporary locations in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. Australian Capital Territory lists were scanned in New South Wales, South Australian and Tasmanian lists were scanned in Victoria, and Northern Territory lists were scanned in Queensland. Scanning of lists used in mobile polling began on 9 October. Scanning of lists used at polling places began on 11 October.

Declaration of the polls

Once the votes have been counted and a successful candidate has been determined there is a public declaration of the result of the poll. The declaration of the poll for each seat of the House of Representatives is conducted by the DRO at the place of nomination. The declaration of the Senate election of each State and Territory is conducted by the respective AEO.

The Divisions of Port Adelaide in South Australia and Tangney in Western Australia were the first seats declared for the House of Representatives on 20 October 2004. All seats were declared by 8 November 2004.

Return of the writs

The writs for an election must be returned within 100 days of their issue. After the Senate polls are declared, the AEO for each State returns the writ for their election endorsed with the names of the successful candidates to the State Governor. The Territory AEOs return their writs to the Governor General. For the House of Representatives, the Electoral Commissioner returns the writs for each State and Territory endorsed with the name of each candidate elected for each division in that State or Territory. These writs are returned to the Governor-General.

For the 2004 federal election the writs were required to be returned by 8 December 2004. All writs were returned by Thursday, 11 November 2004.

Election Visitor Program | 10

Behind the scenes



DURING THE 2004 ELECTION PERIOD, THE AEC AGAIN WELCOMED A NUMBER OF GUESTS FROM OVERSEAS ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES TO STUDY AND OBSERVE THE CONDUCT OF AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS.

The Election Visitor Program is part of the AEC's ongoing commitment to encouraging communication and cooperation with international electoral bodies. The objectives of the program are to:

- provide electoral knowledge to overseas visitors
- enhance networking with counterpart organisations and promote the exchange of ideas
- provide an opportunity for overseas counterparts to observe Australian electoral events
- encourage good governance in line with Australia's foreign policy objectives
- provide a forum to showcase the AEC as a professional electoral body.

Forty officials from 15 countries in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific and Africa participated in the 2004 visitor program. The visitor program consisted of two concurrent study programs, one based in Canberra and the other based in Melbourne. The study programs are intensive, and are



Overseas visitors are briefed on the workings of a polling place



Electoral officials from 15 countries participated in the visitor program

designed for those wishing to examine Australian election processes in detail. The program conducted in Melbourne was more focussed on election operations. The two programs ran for four days before joining together in Canberra for election day activities. A number of other delegates arrived late in the week specifically for the election day program.

It was decided that for this election the program would be conducted with a structure similar to the BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections) electoral administrators' course. Presenters were asked to give a short overview of their specialized area in morning sessions. The afternoons were then divided into workshops, which gave participants more opportunity for sharing experiences and asking questions.

The program covered all aspects of the AEC's administration and conduct of elections, such as

the legislative framework for conducting elections, election management, voter education, information technology, voter registration systems and the training of polling staff. On election day the participants visited several polling places in the Canberra region to observe polling and the conduct of the preliminary counts before concluding the night at the National Tally Room.

Evaluations and informal feedback from participants was very positive. A number of participants stated that Australians are very fortunate to be able to cast their vote in such a secure environment. Others appreciated the time and opportunity to learn about electoral practices throughout the world.

Appendix A details the electoral officials who participated in the 2004 Election Visitor Program and the countries they represented.

Public information campaign | 11

Behind the scenes



THE AEC CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE, INTEGRATED PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FOR THE 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION TO INCREASE AWARENESS, PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF, AND PARTICIPATION, IN THE ELECTION.

The campaign aimed to ensure all eligible electors were informed and understood what was required of them to fully participate in the election and the range of services available. The major messages conveyed in the campaign were:

- how, when and where to enrol and vote
- how and when to vote using services such as pre-poll and postal voting
- how to correctly complete the two ballot papers; and
- the role of the AEC in the election.

The AEC developed and implemented a set of integrated strategies to communicate to electors including advertising, public relations, publications and promotional products, call centre service and the website. There were also a number of specific activities directed at the key target groups of electors from non-English speaking backgrounds, electors with a disability, young electors and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander electors.

Advertising

The AEC's advertising campaign for the 2004 federal election consisted of national and State and Territory based advertising. The advertising campaign which ran throughout the election period was designed to reach all eligible electors. The national advertising campaign involved the use of internet, television, radio and press advertisement versions and was in three main phases:

- encouraging enrolment
- explanation of voting services
- explanation of how to vote formally.

The national campaign consisted of nine television commercials, 11 radio commercials and ten press advertisements. An AEC enrolment

advertisement first appeared on television in every major capital city on Sunday 29 August 2004, the day the election was announced. The final AEC television advertisement was aired on Friday 8 October, the day before election day.

The State and Territory based advertising was designed to support the national advertising by providing local information. It included the press advertising of pre-poll voting arrangements and polling places in State, regional and local press.

National advertising was translated into 17 languages in the ethnic press, 26 languages on ethnic radio and five languages for ethnic television. In addition, radio advertisements were translated into 24 indigenous languages and advertisements were broadcast on Radio for the Print Handicapped.



TRANSLATION OF ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION

PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS WERE TRANSLATED INTO 17 LANGUAGES

- Arabic
- Cambodian
- Chinese
- Croatian
- Greek
- Indonesian
- Iranian
- Italian
- Korean
- Macedonian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Serbian
- Spanish
- Turkish
- Vietnamese

TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENTS WERE TRANSLATED INTO FIVE LANGUAGES

- Arabic
- Vietnamese
- Mandarin
- Spanish
- Cantonese

RADIO ADVERTISEMENTS WERE TRANSLATED INTO 26 LANGUAGES

- Arabic
- Assyrian
- Bahasa (Indonesian and Malaysian)
- Bosnian
- Cantonese
- Croatian
- Farsi
- Farsi (Persian)
- Filipino (Tagalog)
- Greek
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Khmer (Cambodian)
- Korean
- Laotian
- Macedonian
- Maltese
- Mandarin
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Serbian
- Spanish
- Thai
- Turkish
- Vietnamese

RADIO ADVERTISEMENTS WERE TRANSLATED INTO 24 INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

- Anmatjerre
- Anmatyerr
- Arnhem Kriol
- Djambarpuyungu
- Eastern Arrente
- Guningu
- Kala Logan (Central/West)
- Kimberley Kriol
- Kriol
- Larrakia
- Meriam Mir (Eastern)
- Mirriwong
- Northern Kriol
- Pidgin
- Pintubi Luritja
- Pitjantjatjara
- Rithangu
- Tiwi
- Tsi Creole
- Wangkumara
- Warlpiri
- Western Arrente
- Yankuytjatjara
- Yolngu Matha



Election 2004 promotional products—badge and tattoo



Of the total media budget, 63 per cent was spent on television, 8.5 per cent on radio, 27.5 per cent on press and 1 per cent on internet advertising. Expenditure in ethnic and indigenous media accounted for approximately 7 per cent of total advertising costs.

Public relations

The AEC planned and implemented a large scale public relations campaign for the election to complement the advertising and other elements of the public information campaign.

Public relations activities included:

MEDIA RELEASES

The AEC released over 200 national, State and Territory and localised media releases during the election period. A series of media backgrounders detailing key aspects of the election were also distributed. Several key media releases were translated into six community languages and distributed to the ethnic media.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

AEC staff participated in approximately 2000 media interviews for national, metropolitan, local and ethnic radio and television during the election. AEC staff also fielded numerous enquiries from the print media representing Australian and overseas press.

INFORMATION BRIEFINGS

Information briefings for candidates and the media were held by several AEOs in their State or Territory following the announcement of the election. Federal election 2004 information kits containing election information

were distributed to attendees. Monitoring of print and electronic media coverage directly related to AEC activities and messages identified extensive press and broadcast coverage during the election campaign.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Numerous photo opportunities provided to the media gained national and international coverage, including naval submariners pre-poll voting aboard HMAS Farncomb located off-shore of Adelaide, and the commencement of remote polling at Wallace Rockhole, an isolated indigenous community 117 kilometres south-west of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. These particular photos were used extensively throughout the Australian media.

Other national coverage included press coverage of Shane Warne, acclaimed Australian bowler, pre-poll voting in Mumbai during the Australian Cricket Team's test tour of India and Australian Antarctic staff at Casey Station casting their votes in the election. National broadcast coverage included preparation of the National Tally Room in Canberra on morning television; AEC NSW Head Office staffer appearing as a guest on Channel V (pay TV youth network) detailing how to vote for the House of Representatives and the Senate in the election; and behind the scenes at the National Tally Room on election night telecast on a national Sunday program the day after election day.

OTHER PR INITIATIVES

Prior to the federal election, the AEC conducted an integrated public awareness campaign to support the major mail-out of AEC electoral roll review letters in May and June 2004.

This involved the placement of advertisements about the electoral roll review in major metropolitan and selected regional newspapers including selected ethnic press. A public relations campaign at national, State and Territory and divisional levels supported this initiative and disseminated the key messages to the media. The AEC website was integral to the campaign as a source of general information and for providing users with access to enrolment forms to enrol or update their details.

The enrolment review campaign achieved wide media coverage, generating talkback and promotion on radio in regional and metropolitan areas.

There were also a number of other new initiatives used to communicate key messages to target audiences including:

- A public awareness strategy designed to address the high levels of informal voting in non-English speaking communities in southwest Sydney. The AEC, in conjunction with Migrant Resource Centres, conducted enrolment and voting information sessions in various electorates in southwest Sydney in the lead-up to the election. These sessions were designed to educate key community leaders and service providers, who in turn would inform their communities about how to participate in the election process and make their vote count
- Online strategies to raise awareness and interest levels among overseas electors through the use of website banner advertising and tailored editorial. Websites targeted included those which were popular expatriate/community websites accessed by overseas Australians and those designed for Australians either currently overseas or planning to go overseas, such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website smartraveller.gov.au
- Enrolment banner advertising and editorial targeted at young people and first time voters eligible to vote in the election. This advertising appeared on electiontracker.net, an election information website developed by Vibewire.net—an online community created for young people.

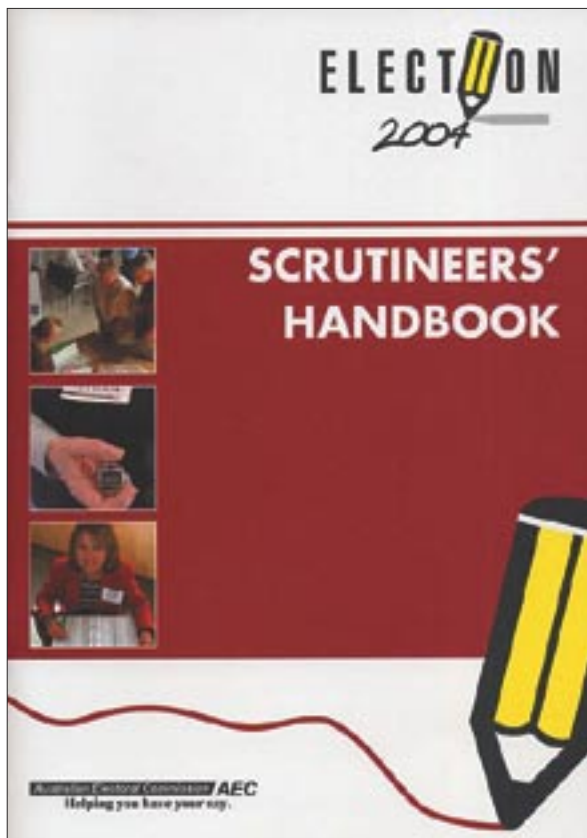


Publications

The AEC produced a series of publications for the 2004 federal election including:

- *Nominations Pamphlet*
- *Election 2004 Candidates' Handbook*
- *Election 2004 Scrutineers' Handbook*
- *National Electoral Division Profiles*
- *A series of Electoral Backgrounders*
- *2004 Federal Electoral Boundaries Wall Map*
- *Election 2004 National List of Candidates*
- *Election 2004 series of Electoral Newsfile*
- *2004 Election Night Guide*
- *Fact sheets series:*
 - *Going overseas*
 - *Australian Defence Force Services Electoral Guide*
 - *Prisoner voting*
- *Information leaflet; Your official guide to the federal election*

Descriptions of these and other publications produced for, or following the election are outlined in Appendix D.



Promotional products

A range of promotional products was produced to promote enrolment and voting for the 2004 federal election. Products included information kits, media release letterhead, badges, stickers, and t-shirts.

Elector leaflet

The AEC distributed a multi-page election information leaflet, *Your official guide to the federal election*, to more than 7.5 million households throughout Australia before election day.

A different version of the leaflet was produced for each State and Territory containing electoral information on how and when to vote, how votes are counted and important AEC contact details. Delivery of over 7.5 million leaflets began three weeks before election day. The leaflets were wrapped in plastic to protect them and keep them separate from party political and other advertising material being delivered. A summarised version of the elector leaflet was translated into 15 languages and made available on the website and in hardcopy on request. A version

of the leaflet was produced on audio cassette, Braille, large print and audio file and distributed to blind and other print handicapped electors.

Election 2004 call centre service

For the 2004 federal election the provision of the call centre service was outsourced to Centrelink. This allowed the AEC to reap the benefits of Centrelink's significant IT platform and national telephony systems. The AEC business line operated as a single virtual call centre from seven Centrelink sites with an AEC developed web based content delivery application that allowed inquiries to be answered promptly, accurately and consistently.

The national '13 23 26' number operated from 8.00am to 8.00pm local time seven days a week to provide information and assistance to the public. A sophisticated Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) system was utilised that significantly reduced the number of inquiries that required operator assistance. Call centre operators answered over 480,000 calls nationally during the election period.

Telephone interpreting service

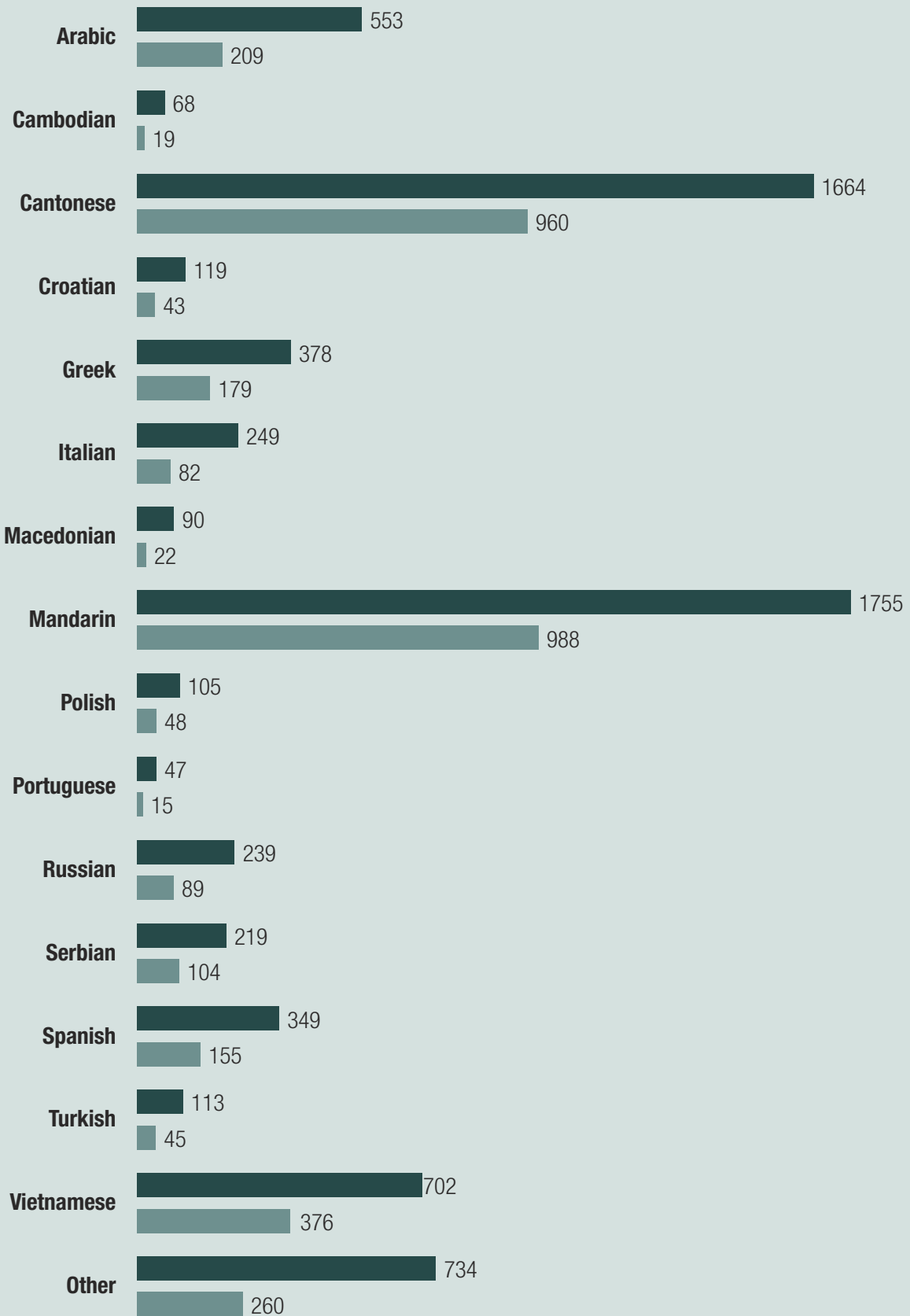
A telephone interpreting service for electors from non-English speaking backgrounds was also provided throughout the 2004 federal election period. The service had 15 language specific telephone lines and one line for electors who did not speak any of the 15 specific languages available. A caller to one of the language specific lines was greeted by a recorded electoral message in their own language and could be connected to an operator speaking their language if they required further information.

During the 8 week period surrounding the election, over 7 000 interpreting services calls were made with almost half of these callers choosing to speak further to an operator. The language lines that received the most calls during the period were the Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese lines.

The graph overleaf illustrates the number of calls each of the language lines received during the 2004 election period.

Telephone Interpreting Service

LANGUAGE ■ CALLS ■ INTERPRETER REQUESTS



Internet

The AEC website consisted of large amounts of current and historical electoral information with extensive cross-referencing to make it easy for users. The website at www.aec.gov.au was first launched at the 1996 federal election.

The website proved to be an important way for the AEC to provide information on the 2004 election to many people including the media, Australians overseas, candidates and parties and members of the public. During the election period, the website received over 843 000 visits, with nearly 7 million page views.

ENROLMENT VERIFICATION FACILITY

In the lead up to the 2004 federal election the AEC introduced an enrolment verification service for electors to confirm their enrolment over the internet. Electors can now access the AEC website—provide their exact name and the town or suburb they are enrolled for, and the web service will confirm their enrolment. In the ten day period between the announcement of the election and the close of rolls over 255,000 enrolment searches were undertaken.

INTERNET VIRTUAL TALLY ROOM

The AEC hosted a website election results system known as the 'Virtual Tally Room'. For this election the Virtual Tally Room underwent a major redevelopment which included a large increase in the number of results and analysis screens. This allowed people visiting the site on election night and in the weeks following to access progressive House of Representatives results, figures from the Senate count for all States and Territories together with a comprehensive range of summary and analysis screens.

On election night the 'Virtual Tally Room' provided up to the minute election results that were updated almost immediately. Votes were telephoned in from polling places and entered into the AEC's election management system. Following election night these figures continued to be regularly updated and included results down to the local polling place level.

The software and technology necessary to host the 'Virtual Tally Room' was developed especially for the AEC. An electronic feed was taken from the AEC's computerised election management system database and distributed to a comprehensive web hosting solution. Over the three week period following and including election night the system handled more than 39 million hits, comprising over 150 thousand visitors that undertook over 10 million page views.

Special target groups

The AEC's public information campaign included a number of activities to meet the needs of specific elector groups. Targeted activities were aimed at minimising any impediments these electors had in receiving and understanding information and to assist them in participating in the election.

ELECTORS FROM NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUNDS

In addition to the placement of election advertising in ethnic media, the AEC provided a national telephone interpreting service in 15 languages and key election information was sent to ethnic media and community organisations throughout the election period.

Election and voting information was translated into 18 community languages and available from the AEC website or by calling the AEC's national enquiry service. Selected polling places located in divisions with large numbers of electors from non-English speaking backgrounds and past high informal voting rates also displayed translated how to vote messages in key community languages and in English, and translated how to vote posters were available for issuing to electors on election day.

In the lead up to the federal election, the AEC in conjunction with Migrant Resource Centres conducted election information sessions in NSW electorates which had a high level of informal voting at the previous election. The sessions were designed to provide enrolment and 'how to vote' information and educate key ethnic community leaders who could assist their communities to fully participate in the election process in a meaningful and correct way.



People enrol to vote at the Rock Enrol marquee at the Big Day Out



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

In the lead up to the 2004 federal election the AEC undertook a pre-election Remote Area Information Program in the remote areas of all states except Tasmania. The program employed mainly indigenous people for a period of six to eight weeks to visit remote indigenous communities to explain our electoral system and how to fully participate. A video featuring Cathy Freeman and actor David Ngoombujarra plus a brochure reinforcing the messages from the video were used to support the program. Posters and stickers featuring Indigenous personalities were also produced and distributed. The posters were inserted in four editions of the *Koori Mail*. Television and radio advertising were also broadcast on indigenous media during the 2004 election.

ELECTORS WITH A DISABILITY

The AEC provided information on the election in a range of print alternative formats to meet the needs of electors with a print disability. In consultation with the National Information Library Service, the AEC distributed audio cassettes, Braille and large print versions of the householder elector leaflet to individuals, disability organisations and libraries. This information was also made available on the AEC website in audio format, large print and in text for screen reader capability. The availability of these products was promoted through the Radio for the Print Handicapped network and other disability media.

YOUNG ELECTORS

The AEC conducted a number of campaigns to encourage young people to enrol and vote in the 2004 election.

Rock Enrol, a national youth enrolment promotion, was conducted in early 2004 as a joint initiative with Triple J, the national youth radio network. The promotion centred around the Big Day Out concerts held across Australia during January and February 2004 and was effective in encouraging young people to enrol for the first time. Print and broadcast media coverage in metropolitan and regional areas also helped raise awareness of the promotion and the dedicated Rock Enrol website was successful in generating new enrolments. The promotion generated over 4,500 enrolments with first time electors enrolling via the Rock Enrol website, at one of the Big Day Out concerts or through subsequent school and youth community events.

A youth television advertisement designed to encourage young people to enrol was placed during youth programming in the close of rolls week. Four youth radio commercials were also broadcast throughout the election period. As part of the public relations campaign, targeted media releases and youth specific case studies were issued to media and the AEC website was heavily promoted as an access point for election information.

The AEC also worked with Vibewire.net, an online youth community, to develop enrolment banner advertising and editorial for their electiontracker.net website for promotion during the enrolment phase of the election campaign.

Funding and disclosure | 12

Behind the scenes



THE FUNDING AND DISCLOSURE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE THE 1984 ELECTION. THESE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT HAVE TWO MAIN COMPONENTS:

- PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
- DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL DETAILS BY CANDIDATES, REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER PERSONS (THIRD PARTIES) AND GROUPS (RETURN FORMS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE AEC).

Election funding

A candidate or Senate group is eligible for election funding if they obtain at least four per cent of the formal first preference votes in the division or the State/Territory they contested. The amount to be paid is calculated by multiplying the number of votes obtained by the current election funding rate. The funding rate for the 2004 election was 194.397 cents per eligible vote. This rate is indexed every six months to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Election funding is paid in two stages. First, the AEC calculates the amount of election funding due based on the number of votes counted as at the 20th day after election day and pays at least 95% of that amount. Secondly, once vote counting is finalised, the AEC pays the remainder of the amount of election funding due.

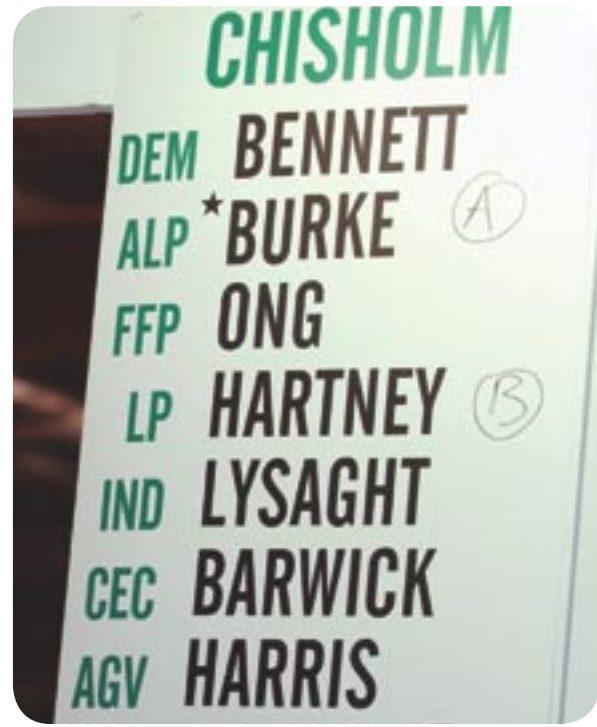
The total election funding paid at the 2004 federal election was \$41 926 158.91. For candidates and Senate groups endorsed by registered political parties, payments are made directly to their parties. Unendorsed candidates and Senate groups receive their payments direct, unless they have appointed an agent who is to receive the payment.



Candidates receive election funding if they obtain at least four percent of the first preference vote

Total election funding payments for the 2004 federal election are listed below:

NAME	AMOUNT
Liberal Party of Australia	\$17,956,326.48
Australian Labor Party	\$16,710,043.43
Australian Greens	\$3,316,702.48
National Party of Australia	\$2,966,531.27
Northern Territory Country Liberal Party	\$158,973.97
Family First Party	\$158,451.04
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	\$56,215.73
Australian Democrats	\$8,491.26
Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	\$6,572.56
No Goods and Services Tax Party	\$5,995.20
Pauline Hanson	\$199,886.77
Antony (Tony) Windsor	\$89,562.59
Peter Andren	\$79,413.12
Robert (Bob) Katter	\$63,544.49
Peter King	\$25,730.39
Brian Deegan	\$24,449.31
Lars Hedberg	\$19,400.82
Graeme Campbell	\$12,935.18
Robert (Rob) Bryant	\$12,120.65
Robert Dunn	\$11,761.02
Margaret F Menzel	\$10,977.60
Darren Power	\$9,980.34
Bruce Haigh	\$7,381.25
Jeanette (Jen) Sackley	\$7,365.70
Samir (Sam) Bargshoon	\$7,346.26
TOTAL	\$41,926,158.91



Tally board results for the division of Chisholm

the operations of the funding and disclosure provisions in relation to the 2004 federal election. This report will be tabled in parliament.

Receipt of returns

Following an election key participants in the electoral process are required to lodge with the AEC various returns disclosing certain election campaign transactions. A summary table of the returns is presented below.

All these returns are available for public inspection 24 weeks after election day, from Tuesday, 29 March 2005.

The AEC is required under subsection 17(2) of the Act to prepare a separate report for the Minister on

Registered political parties

Political parties may register with the AEC for federal elections. Parties which register then must fulfil legislative requirements under the funding and disclosure provisions of the Act and are able to have party names appear on the ballot paper next to their candidates. Some parties, such as the Australian Democrats, do not separately register their State and Territory branches, but such branches are nevertheless recognised as independent registered parties for funding and disclosure purposes. For federal elections the register is closed from the day the writ is issued. For the 2004 federal election the register closed on 30 August 2004.

PARTICIPANT	TYPE OF RETURN	TIME FRAME	DUE DATE
Candidates	Donations received and electoral expenditure	Within 15 weeks after election day	24 January 2005
Senate groups	Donations received and electoral expenditure	Within 15 weeks after election day	24 January 2005
Third parties	Details of electoral expenditure, donations received, donations made to candidates and others.	Within 15 weeks after election day	24 January 2005
Broadcasters	Electoral advertisements broadcast	Within 8 weeks after election day	6 December 2004
Publishers	Electoral advertisements published	Within 8 weeks after election day	6 December 2004

Following is a list of parties registered for the 2004 election:

LIST OF PARTIES REGISTERED FOR THE 2004 ELECTION

Advance Australia Party	Liberal Party of Australia—Tasmanian Division
Australian Democrats	Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division
Australian Greens	Lower Excise Fuel and Beer Party
Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch)	National Party of Australia
Australian Labor Party (ALP)	National Party of Australia (Queensland)
Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)	National Party of Australia (SA) Inc
Australian Labor Party (Northern Territory Branch)	National Party of Australia (WA) Inc
Australian Labor Party (South Australian Branch)	National Party of Australia—NSW
Australian Labor Party (State of Queensland)	National Party of Australia—Victoria
Australian Labor Party (Tasmanian Branch)	New Country Party
Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch)	No Goods and Services Tax Party
Australian Labor Party (Western Australian Branch)	Non-Custodial Parents Party
Australian Progressive Alliance	Northern Territory Country Liberal Party
Australians Against Further Immigration	Nuclear Disarmament Party of Australia
Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Outdoor Recreation Party
Citizens Electoral Council of Australia (NSW Division)	Pauline Hanson's One Nation
Citizens Electoral Council of Australia	Pauline Hanson's One Nation (NSW Division)
Country Labor Party	Progressive Labour Party
Curtin Labor Alliance	Queensland Greens
Democratic Labor Party (DLP) of Australia	Republican Party of Australia
Ex-Service, Service & Veterans Party	Save the ADI Site Party
Family First Party	Socialist Alliance
Help End Marijuana Prohibition	Tasmania First Party
Hope Party Australia—ethics equality ecology	Tasmanian Independent Senator Brian Harradine Group
liberals for forests	The Aged and Disability Pensioners Party
Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc.	The Australian Greens—Victoria
Liberal Party of Australia	The Fishing Party
Liberal Party of Australia (SA Division)	The Great Australians
Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)	The Greens (WA) Inc
Liberal Party of Australia—ACT Division	The Greens NSW
Liberal Party of Australia—Queensland Division	Young National Party of Australia

Election litigation | 13

Behind the scenes



INJUNCTIONS

DURING AN ELECTION PERIOD, INJUNCTION APPLICATIONS ARE NORMALLY MADE UNDER S 383 OF THE *COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL ACT 1918 (THE ACT)*. THIS SECTION ALLOWS EITHER THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER OR A CANDIDATE AT THE FEDERAL ELECTION TO APPLY TO THE FEDERAL COURT FOR AN INJUNCTION TO STOP POTENTIAL BREACHES OF THE ACT BEING COMMITTED.

During the election period, and up to the close of polling, no applications were filed under s 383 of the Act. There was one application under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977* (the ADJR Act) challenging the determination of the order of names on the ballot paper for the Division of Gellibrand in Victoria. This action arose as a result of the AEC's decision to undertake a re-draw of the procedure provided for in s 213 of the Act, following an error that occurred during the original procedure.

The challenge was dismissed in the first instance but was appealed to the Full Court of the Federal Court. Despite some criticism of the AEC's decision to undertake the entire procedure in s 213, the Full Court did not order the AEC to remedy the error by undertaking the process again. See *Assaf v Australian Electoral Commission* [2004] FCAFC 265 (30 September 2004).

Petitions to the court of disputed returns

Two petitions were accepted for filing by the High Court, sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns.

HUDSON V ENTSCH [2005] FCA 460

This was a petition challenging the return of Warren Entsch as the Member for Leichhardt in Queensland. The petitioner, Mr Hudson, alleged that Mr Entsch had contravened s 327 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Cth). Section 327 makes it an offence to 'hinder or interfere with the free exercise or performance, by any other person, of any political right or duty that is relevant to an election under this Act.'

Mr Hudson had erected signs in and around Cairns depicting a caricature of Mr Entsch and thus opposing his candidature. When interviewed by local television news about the signs, Mr Entsch suggested that the signs were defamatory. He also suggested that people knock the signs down. It was the act of inducing people to knock down the signs that grounded Mr Hudson's allegation that Mr Entsch had contravened s 327.

On 31 March 2005, Dowsett J dismissed the petition holding that the alleged conduct in question did not come within the terms of conduct prohibited by s 327: at [34], [49], [56] and [57]. The written judgment was handed down on 26 April 2005 and is available on AustLII at <http://www.austlii.edu.au> and can be located by following the links to the Federal Court.

WHEELEY V THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER [2005] FCA 473

This was a petition challenging the return of Gary Hardgrave as the Member for Moreton in Queensland. The petition was concerned with the operation of compulsory preferential voting prescribed by s 240 of the Electoral Act.

On 21 April 2005, Kiefel J noted that the validity of s 240 was confirmed in *Langer v Commonwealth* (1996) 186 CLR 302. Further, her Honour also noted that the petition failed to comply with the requirements in s 358 of the Electoral Act which operated as a bar to proceedings: at [18] and [19].

The judgment is available on AustLII at <http://www.austlii.edu.au> and can be located by following the links to the Federal Court.

Prosecutions

As at June 2005, no proceedings had been instituted by a public authority (i.e. the AEC, DPP, AFP) pursuant to Part XXI of the Act.

The AEC understands that one private prosecution under s 350 of the Act was commenced in the Tweed Heads Magistrates Court in New South Wales. The AEC is not a party to the matter and understands that it has not yet been heard.

Behind the scenes



FOLLOWING THE CONDUCT OF EACH FEDERAL ELECTION THE AEC CONDUCTS VARIOUS INTERNAL REVIEWS AND EXTERNAL SURVEYS OF ITS ADMINISTRATION OF THE ELECTION. THE AEC ALSO PARTICIPATES IN ANY PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

FOR THE 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION, THE AEC IS PROVIDING A NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS TO A FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE INQUIRING INTO ELECTORAL MATTERS; IS CONDUCTING A NUMBER OF INTERNAL REVIEWS AND AUDITS ON OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES; AND UNDERTOOK POST-ELECTION SURVEYS AMONG ELECTORS AND POLLING STAFF. THESE POST-ELECTION REVIEWS AND SURVEYS FORM THE BASIS FOR PLANNING FUTURE ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Federal Parliamentary inquiry

When a new Parliament meets it establishes parliamentary committees to investigate various matters. In 1987 the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM), was established to scrutinise electoral issues. Its first inquiry was into the conduct of the 1987 federal election and related matters. During the 40th Parliament, in addition to an inquiry into the 2001 federal election the JSCEM also received a reference to inquire into the integrity of the electoral roll, a reference to inquire into the representation of the Territories in the House of Representatives, and a reference to inquire into the 1996 and 1998 Funding and Disclosure Reports previously published by the AEC.

The 41st Parliament has again established the JSCEM, which has convened an inquiry into the conduct of the 2004 federal election. The AEC has made a number of submissions to this inquiry. The submissions discuss issues raised during the election period, review the electoral reform agenda, and make various recommendations for amendments to the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and electoral procedures to ensure the efficient and effective administration of electoral matters.

Operational reviews

The AEC undertook a number of internal reviews to evaluate its performance on various operational processes and arrangements of the 2004 federal election. These reviews were conducted on a State and Territory basis and also on a national basis. The findings of these reviews will be used in the planning of policies, procedures and services for the conduct of future electoral events.

Public information campaign reviews

ADVERTISING AND POST ELECTION RESEARCH

An evaluation project based on a national telephone survey was conducted to measure the awareness and impact of the AEC's election advertising campaign on the voting public. The surveys were undertaken after each phase of the advertising campaign (enrolment, voting services and formality).

The surveys also measured the levels of satisfaction with the election process and AEC services.

The research indicated that television and press advertising encouraging enrolment and showing how to vote, were seen by over 80% of respondents.

Among other findings, the research indicated that among those surveyed:

- over 90% of respondents indicated they felt either quite well informed or very well informed on how to fill out the ballot papers for the election
- the same number of respondents (90%) believed that the AEC would conduct the election fairly and impartially
- of those who expressed an opinion, almost 100% found polling place staff helpful and efficient.

Election 2004 information inquiry service—evaluation

An evaluation of the operations of the Election 2004 Information Inquiry Service commenced in November 2004. Recommendations have been developed and the Media and Communication Section at Central Office will continue to investigate options for the next event.

Review of the training of polling staff program

A review of the Training of Polling Staff (TOPS) program is being undertaken to gauge the effectiveness of the program among those who participated in it in 2004. Questionnaires were sent to a random sample of 4 247 polling officials. Divisional staff were also surveyed.

Their responses and suggestions will be used to refine the training program for future electoral events.

Internal audit

The AEC conducts an internal audit program that provides an independent assessment of operational performance on AEC programs and procedures. After the 2004 federal election an audit was undertaken to examine and report on the effectiveness of the key controls operating over the payment of temporary office assistants and polling officials in relation to the election.

AECPAY processes employment and pay details for approximately 65,000 temporary office assistants and polling officials over the election period making it essential that key risk areas are addressed in terms of internal controls and to determine whether these controls are being performed in a manner that represents the most efficient use of resources.

The audit concluded that overall, the processes and controls over the payment of AEC temporary assistants and polling officials appear to be operating adequately.

An audit review of the tender evaluation and contract management in Central Office will also be undertaken to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of contract management procedures in place, with the aim of identifying improvements to the current procedure.

Postal voting inquiry

A record number of almost 760 000 postal votes were issued for the 2004 federal election. A significant administrative issue for the AEC arising out of the election related to the delay in processing some postal vote packages to voters. As soon as problems were identified steps were taken to ensure that electors affected were still able to vote. After the election the AEC contracted Minter Ellison to conduct an inquiry into postal voting at the election. Minter Ellison has made recommendations to the AEC identifying ways to help improve postal voting procedures for the next electoral event.

Appendices

Behind the scenes

Appendix A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS' PROGRAM

NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANISATION	POSITION
Sonam Gyeltshen	Bhutan	Royal Court of Justice	Registrar
Ugyen Jamtsho	Bhutan	Royal Court of Justice	Registrar
Lisa Forte	Canada	Elections Ontario	Manager Policy & Planning
Todd Merkel	Canada	Elections Ontario	Facilities Officer
Michael Kennedy	Canada	Elections Ontario	Manager Logistics & Planning
Yvonne Paradis	Canada	Elections Ontario	Manager Materials & Facilities
Edgar Martins	East Timor	STAE (Secretariat of Electoral Administration)	Deputy Director
Jeannette Bolenga	Fiji	University of the South Pacific	Fellow In Electoral Studies
B B Tandon	India	Election Commission of India	Electoral Commissioner
Mohammad Noor	India	Election Commission of India	Deputy Election Commissioner
Suaad Al-Jubory	Iraq	Independent Electoral Commission Iraq	Commissioner
Hamdea Al-Hussaini	Iraq	Independent Electoral Commission Iraq	Commissioner
Aida Sharif Ussayran	Iraq	Ministry for Human Rights Iraq	Ministry Official
Tely Am'in Ali	Iraq	Ministry for Human Rights Iraq	Ministry Official
Ali Abdullah Abbas	Iraq	Ministry for Human Rights Iraq	Ministry Official
Hassan Wahab Al Aragy	Iraq	Ministry for Human Rights Iraq	Ministry Official
Muhammed Naser Flayeh	Iraq	Ministry for Human Rights Iraq	Ministry Official
Tau Putsoane	Lesotho	Independent Electoral Commission Lesotho	Deputy Director
Mphasa Mokhochane	Lesotho	Independent Electoral Commission Lesotho	Deputy Director of Elections
David Henry	New Zealand	Elections New Zealand	Chief Electoral Officer
Ammar Al Dwaik	Palestinian Territories	Central Elections Commission	CEO
Bashar Ahmad Suleiman	Palestinian Territories	Central Elections Commission	Head of Planning & Support
Andrew Trawen	Papua New Guinea	PNG Electoral Commission	Electoral Commissioner
Isaiah Aire	Papua New Guinea	PNG Electoral Commission	IT Manager
Kila Ralai	Papua New Guinea	PNG Electoral Commission	Election Manager
Yapino Mango	Papua New Guinea	PNG Electoral Commission	Election Manager
Sir Peter Kenilorea	Solomon Islands	National Parliament of Solomon Islands	Speaker of the National Parliament
Martin Karani	Solomon Islands	Electoral Commission Office	Chief Electoral Officer
Alphonsus Pero	Solomon Islands	Electoral Commission Office	Principal Elections Officer
Ekachai Varunprabha	Thailand	Office of the Electoral Commission of Thailand	Secretary General
Prinya Nakchudtree	Thailand	Office of the Election Commission of Thailand	Election Commissioner
Rungrit Makarapong	Thailand	Office of the Electoral Commission of Thailand	Deputy Secretary General
Detchapon Korsanan	Thailand	Office of the Electoral Commission of Thailand	Secretary to Secretary General
Jesadaporn Boonrak	Thailand	Office of the Electoral Commission of Thailand	Election Officer
Hepeti Takeifanga	Tonga	Prime Minister's Office	Chief Returning Officer
Rocio Ferro	United Kingdom	Department for Constitutional Affairs	Constitutional Strategy
Becky Lloyd	United Kingdom	The Electoral Commission	Campaigns Manager
Roger Gough	United Kingdom	The Electoral Commission	Director of Corporate Services
Ellen Weintraub	United States of America	Federal Election Commission	Vice Chair
Bradley Smith	United States of America	Federal Election Commission	Chair

Appendix B

LIST OF OVERSEAS POSTS AND VOTES ISSUED

LOCATION	COUNTRY	VOTES	LOCATION	COUNTRY	VOTES
Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	236	Mexico City	Mexico	109
Abuja	Nigeria	8	Milan	Italy	209
Accra	Ghana	54	Moscow	Russia	128
Amman	Jordan	127	Mumbai	India	118
Ankara	Turkey	92	Nagoya	Japan	138
Apia	Samoa	160	Nairobi	Kenya	93
Athens	Greece	794	Nauru	Nauru	57
Atlanta	United States of America	158	New Delhi	India	284
Auckland	New Zealand	1167	New York	United States of America	1879
Bali	Indonesia	148	Nicosia	Cyprus	266
Bandar Seri Begawan	Brunei	108	Noumea	New Caledonia	76
Bangkok	Thailand	1262	Nuku'alofa	Tonga	62
Beijing	China	938	Osaka	Japan	386
Beirut	Lebanon	501	Ottawa	Canada	385
Belgrade	Serbia and Montenegro	276	Paris	France	1479
Berlin	Germany	678	Phnom Penh	Cambodia	509
Brasilia	Brazil	38	Pohnpei	Micronesia	37
Brussels	Belgium	205	Port Louis	Mauritius	144
Bucharest	Romania	32	Port Moresby	Papua New Guinea	725
Budapest	Hungary	219	Port of Spain	Trinidad and Tobago	30
Buenos Aires	Argentina	111	Port Vila	Vanuatu	198
Cairo	Egypt	246	Pretoria	South Africa	263
Chicago	United States of America	354	Rangoon	Burma	84
Colombo	Sri Lanka	387	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia	320
Copenhagen	Denmark	288	Rome	Italy	622
Dhaka	Bangladesh	96	San Francisco	United States of America	612
Dili	East Timor	377	Santiago	Chile	346
Dubai	United Arab Emirates	594	Sao Paulo	Brazil	40
Dublin	Ireland	838	Sapporo	Japan	34
Frankfurt	Germany	228	Sendai	Japan	36
Fukuoka City	Japan	88	Seoul	Korea	318
Geneva	Switzerland	477	Shanghai	China	1242
Guangzhou	China	914	Singapore	Singapore	2446
Hanoi	Vietnam	347	Stockholm	Sweden	351
Harare	Zimbabwe	29	Suva	Fiji	573
Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam	983	Taipei	Taiwan	863
Hong Kong	China	7768	Tarawa	Kiribati	41
Honiara	Solomon Islands	355	Tehran	Iran	63
Honolulu	United States of America	141	Tel Aviv	Israel	162
Islamabad	Pakistan	65	The Hague	Netherlands	581
Istanbul	Turkey	84	Tokyo	Japan	1359
Jakarta	Indonesia	448	Toronto	Canada	616
Kathmandu	Nepal	131	Vancouver	Canada	831
Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	768	Vienna	Austria	418
Lima	Peru	84	Vientiane	Laos	150
Lisbon	Portugal	179	Warsaw	Poland	246
London	United Kingdom	20716	Washington	United States of America	1319
Los Angeles	United States of America	575	Wellington	New Zealand	881
Madrid	Spain	380	Zagreb	Croatia	254
Malta	Malta	300			
Manila	Philippines	609			
			TOTAL		68544

Appendix C

ELECTION COST ESTIMATES

As at 30/04/05 the expenditure on the 2004 federal election was \$75,338,711.89 excluding \$41,926,158.91 for public funding. Based on the Close of Rolls figure, the cost per elector was \$5.79.

EXPENDITURE TO 30/04/05 (GST EXCLUSIVE)	
EXPENSES	\$
Employee Expenses	36,968,991.45
Property Expenses	2,844,248.49
Election Supplies and Services (inc Freight, Election Equipment, Call Centre Services, Forms)	13,252,749.19
Consultancy	974,587.29
Travel	1,123,817.31
Advertising and Promotion	10,192,979.25
Computer Services	2,586,777.87
Mailing Services	1,488,254.74
Printing and Publications	5,540,491.90
Legal Services	198,154.73
Training of Polling Staff	79,465.95
Other Expenses	88,193.72
TOTAL EXPENSES	75,338,711.89
Public funding	41,926,158.91
TOTAL	117,264,870.80

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS ELECTIONS

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Average Cost per elector					
Actual Cost	4.11	5.08	5.21	5.09	5.79
Constant Prices (Sep/Dec 1984 Base)	2.54	2.87	2.89	2.54	2.67
Constant Prices (Sep/Dec 2004 Base)	5.49	6.21	6.24	5.49	5.79

Appendix D

2004 ELECTION PUBLICATIONS

The following publications were published for the 2004 federal election. Most of these are available on the AEC website at www.aec.gov.au or by calling 13 23 26.

Election 2004 Nominations Pamphlet

A concise information pamphlet for people interested in standing as a candidate in the Senate or House of Representatives of the Australian Parliament.

Election 2004 Candidates' Handbook

A handbook designed to assist candidates standing for election for the Senate or House of Representatives of the Australian Parliament. It explains in detail those aspects of electoral law which relate directly to candidates.

Election 2004 Scrutineers' Handbook

A handbook designed as an information aid for scrutineers at federal elections. It explains in detail those aspects of electoral law which relate directly to scrutineers.

Electoral Newsfiles

A regular background on electoral issues and events. The following titles are specific to the 2004 federal election:

- No 116: *Federal Election 2004 Information Guide*
- No 118: *Federal Election 2004 Close of Rolls*
- No.119: *Federal Election 2004 Close of Nominations*
- No.120: *Federal Election 2004 The Votes and the Count*

2004 National Electoral Division Profiles

A consolidated set of maps and profiles of Australia's 150 divisions.

2004 Federal Electoral Boundaries Map

A full colour map showing the electoral boundaries at the 2004 federal election. The map reflects boundary changes due to redistributions in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

2004 Election Night Guide

A guide to assist media and others on election night. It contains background information on the election and

a user manual for the AEC's computerised election night system.

Electoral Backgrounders

Backgrounders are published for the general information of people interested in electoral issues. They present and analyse the issues on various topics, but do not promote a particular position or represent legal advice. The following backgrounders have been recently published:

- No. 14: Electoral Fraud and Multiple Voting
(currently being updated)
- No. 15: Electoral Advertising
- No. 16: Influencing Votes
- No. 17: Compulsory Voting
- No. 18: Informal Voting
- No. 19: Constitutional Disqualifications
and Intending Candidates
- No. 20: Polling Place Offences

2004 Federal Election Results Map

A colour coded map showing which party won which division. Also contains the names of Members and Senators following the 2004 federal election.

Funding and Disclosure Handbooks

Political Parties | This handbook is intended as a useful reference for party officers and others involved with the election funding and financial disclosure provisions of the Act.

Candidates | This handbook is intended as a useful reference for candidates and Senate groups on the election funding and financial disclosure provisions of the Act.

Third Parties | This handbook is to assist persons having to complete disclosure returns for third parties.

Broadcasters and Publishers | This is a guide for broadcasters and publishers required to submit returns under the disclosure provisions of the Act.

Appendix E

CENTRAL AND HEAD OFFICE ADDRESSES

Electoral Commissioner

PO Box 6172
KINGSTON ACT 2604

West Block Offices
Queen Victoria Tce
PARKES ACT 2600

Ph: (02) 6271 4411
Fax: (02) 6271 4558

Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland

GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE QLD 4001

7th Floor
Collection House
488 Queen St
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Ph: (07) 3834 3400
Fax: (07) 3832 3058

Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania

GPO Box 520
HOBART TAS 7001

2nd Floor
AMP Building
86 Collins St
HOBART TAS 7000

Ph: (03) 6235 0500
Fax: (03) 6234 4268

Australian Electoral Officer for New South Wales

PO Box K778
HAYMARKET NSW 1240

Level 1
Roden Cutler House
24 Campbell St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Ph: (02) 9375 6333
Fax: (02) 9212 7659

Australian Electoral Officer for Western Australia

GPO Box 9867
PERTH WA 6848

Level 3
AXA Building
111 St Georges Tce
PERTH WA 6000

Ph: (08) 6363 8080
Fax: (08) 6363 8051

Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory

GPO Box 21
DARWIN NT 0801

Level 7
TCG Centre
80 Mitchell St
DARWIN NT 0800

Ph: (08) 8982 8000
Fax: (08) 8981 7964

Australian Electoral Officer for Victoria

GPO Box 768G
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Level 22
Casselden Place
2 Lonsdale St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Ph: (03) 9285 7171
Fax: (03) 9285 7174

Australian Electoral Officer for South Australia

GPO Box 344
ADELAIDE SA 5001

9th Floor
Origin Energy Building
1 King William St
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Ph: (08) 8237 6555
Fax: (08) 8231 2664

AEC divisional offices can be contacted on 13 23 26. Addresses can be found in the White Pages Telephone Directory under 'Australian Electoral Commission' or by contacting the appropriate State or Territory Head Office.

For more information on the federal electoral process contact any of the above AEC offices, phone 13 23 26 or access the website www.aec.gov.au.

