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Analysis of Declaration Voting



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Executive Summary

There has been an increase in the number and proportion of declaration votes cast at recent Federal elections. Declaration votes, which include absent, pre-poll, postal and provisional votes, require the elector to sign a declaration before the vote can be accepted. The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* specifies the requirements that have to be satisfied for a declaration vote application to be accepted. The Act also specifies the detailed procedures for administering declaration votes.

At the 2001 Federal election, declaration votes represented 15.9 per cent of the votes counted, a substantial increase over the 1993 election. The most dramatic increase has occurred in postal and pre-poll votes, giving rise to suggestions that electors are using the current declaration voting arrangements as a form of convenience voting, rather than for their original intention.

Changes in electoral legislation over the last twenty years have expanded the grounds for declaration votes. Not surprisingly this has led to an increase in the number of declaration votes cast. While declaration voting per se is not a matter of great concern, particularly if the alternative is not voting at all then the use of declaration voting as a convenience can be viewed as acceptable.

The increase in declaration voting has a number of impacts on the electoral process. The result of elections can be delayed and the cost of administering elections can increase. The increased usage of postal voting may also have implications for the secrecy of the ballot.

Introduction

This paper presents an analysis of declaration voting at recent Federal elections. The paper is in part a response to a recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM)¹ and meets an undertaking given to the Committee by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the conduct of the 2001 election.²

In its report on the conduct of the 1998 election the JSCEM expressed concern that there was an increase in declaration voting and that voters may be viewing declaration voting as a more convenient form of voting than attending a polling booth on election day.³ AEC research indicates that this may well be the case.

This paper examines trends in declaration voting at recent Federal elections, provides a detailed description of declaration voting and the voting process and looks for reasons to explain recent changes in the pattern of declaration voting.

Declaration votes are so called because they require the voter to sign a declaration before the vote can be accepted. The vote is not admitted to the count until the enrolment details of the applicant are verified. Declaration votes include, Absent votes, Postal votes, Pre-Poll votes and Provisional votes. Votes cast at a polling place on polling day where a declaration is not required are referred to as Ordinary votes, and represent the vast majority of votes cast at any electoral event. Absent votes are votes cast by an elector out of their enrolled division but still within their home state or territory on polling day. Pre-Poll or Postal votes are votes cast before or on polling day at a pre-poll voting centre or by post. Provisional votes are votes cast at a polling place where the elector's name cannot be found on the roll, or where the elector's name has been marked off the roll as having voted, or where the elector has silent enrolment. A detailed description of each type of declaration vote is provided later in this paper.

Background

Declaration votes are an important part of the democratic process as they increase the accessibility of the electoral process to electors who may otherwise have difficulty in

¹ Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM), *The 1998 Election: Report on the Inquiry into the 1998 Federal Election and matters related thereto*, Parliament of Australia, June 2000, Recommendation 20, p.48

² Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), *Australian Electoral Commission Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters the Conduct of the 2001 Federal Election*, Australian Electoral Commission, Canberra, July 2002, Para. 6.1.4

³ JSCEM 2000

meeting their obligation to vote. Since 1924 voting has been compulsory at Federal elections. In order to ameliorate the effects of compulsory voting and to increase the accessibility of the electoral process generally there has been a steady expansion in the type and availability of declaration votes since that time.

The very first Commonwealth electoral legislation, enacted in 1902, introduced forms of absent and postal voting in addition to ordinary voting at the designated polling place. Absent voting allowed electors to vote at any polling place in their division or, if regulations permitted, within their state. Postal voting was then available to electors more than five miles (eight kilometres) from a polling place on polling day, or who were prevented from voting by serious illness, or infirmity, or a woman approaching childbirth. Postal voting was abolished in 1911 but reinstated in 1918. Absent and Postal voting then became an accepted part of the electoral landscape. Provisional votes (previously referred to as Section votes) were introduced in 1918. Pre-Poll voting was introduced in 1984 when the Commonwealth Electoral Act was extensively rewritten. Over the course of the past one hundred years the grounds for allowing declaration voting have been broadened to encompass religious grounds, carer responsibilities and electors overseas. A chronology of Commonwealth electoral legislative provisions in respect of declaration voting is at Appendix 1.

Legislative Provisions

The legislative provisions governing declaration votes are contained in the following parts of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*: Part XV of the Act for postal voting, Part XVA for pre-poll voting, and Part XVI for absent and provisional voting. Schedule 2 of the Act provides the grounds for which an elector may apply for a postal or pre-poll vote. The relevant parts of the Act governing declaration votes are reproduced as Appendix 2. The following provides a summary of the relevant provisions.

Absent votes

An elector who is away from the division for which they are enrolled but still within the same state or territory may, upon making a declaration, vote on polling day as an absent voter at any polling place in other divisions in that state or territory.

The following procedures apply to absent voting:

- the absent voter must answer the three questions put to any ordinary voter (name, address and voted before in this election) and must also provide sufficient information to enable identification of the division for which they are enrolled;
- a declaration made by the absent voter is printed on, or securely attached to, an envelope addressed to the Divisional Returning Officer (DRO) for the division in which the elector claims to be enrolled; and

- envelopes containing absent votes are placed in a declaration vote ballot box at the polling place in which they are cast.

Postal votes

An elector who will be unable to attend a polling place on polling day may apply for a postal vote. The following conditions apply to the application of a postal vote:

- the elector will not be in the state or territory for which they are enrolled;
- will not be within eight kilometres of any polling place in their state or territory;
- will be travelling on polling day under conditions that prevent them from attending a polling place in their state or territory;
- are seriously ill or infirm or, in the case of a woman who is approaching childbirth, will be unable to attend a polling place on polling day;
- will be, at a place other than a hospital, caring for a person who is seriously ill or infirm or expected shortly to give birth, and therefore unable to attend a polling place;
- will be a patient in a hospital (other than a special hospital) and unable to vote at that hospital;
- will be a patient in a special hospital (usually a nursing home or similar institution) and unable to vote in accordance with mobile polling provisions;
- are, by reasons of religious belief or membership of a religious order, precluded from attending a polling place;
- will be serving a sentence of imprisonment or otherwise under detention;
- has silent enrolment; or
- will be engaged in their employment or occupation and are not entitled to a leave of absence or whose absence would be likely to cause loss to the person in their occupation.

An application for a postal vote must contain a signed declaration by the elector that they are entitled to apply for a postal vote. Envelopes containing postal votes must be postmarked on or before polling day and can be received by the AEC up to 13 days after polling day.

Certain classes of electors can apply for registration as general postal voters. An application can be made on the following grounds: living more than 20 kilometres from a polling place, serious illness or infirmity, caring for a person who is seriously ill or infirm,

detained in custody, severe physical incapacity, silent elector, or religious beliefs or membership of a religious order. Electors who are registered as general postal voters are automatically sent ballot papers by the AEC.

Pre-Poll votes

An elector may apply for a pre-poll vote on any of the grounds applicable for a postal vote. An application for a pre-poll vote must be made in person by the elector, at a Divisional office of the AEC or at a pre-poll voting centre before polling day, except in the case of interstate travellers who can vote at an interstate polling centre on polling day.

An application for a pre-poll vote must contain a signed declaration by the elector that they are entitled to apply for a pre-poll vote. Envelopes containing pre-poll votes are placed in the ballot box at the pre-poll voting location.

Provisional votes

An elector may be issued with a provisional vote if:

- their name cannot be found on the certified list of electors for the Division;
- their name has been marked off the certified list of electors as having already voted at the polling place (and the elector claims not to have voted before); or
- they have silent enrolment.

The provisional voter must answer the questions put to any ordinary voter (except the silent elector is not required to publicly disclose their address) and must sign a declaration on an envelope provided. The ballot papers are then sealed in the envelope and the envelope placed in the ballot box.

Rejected applications

The rules governing the admission of declaration votes into the count are set out in Schedule 3 of the Act (reproduced at Appendix 2). The Schedule is quite specific in the requirements that have to be satisfied for a declaration vote to be accepted and admitted into the count. As such, a number of declaration votes are rejected at each election. At the 2001 election, 179 071 declaration votes were rejected (8.4 per cent of the number of declaration votes received). By far the most common reason for rejection was the fact that the voter was not enrolled. Other categories of rejection include - the declaration vote not being signed, not being witnessed, voted late, received late or declared for the wrong division.

Trends in declaration voting

At the 2001 Federal election, of the 12 098 490 Senate votes counted, 1 925 873 or 15.92 per cent were declaration votes. This represents a 39.4 per cent increase over the number of declaration votes counted in the 1993 election, compared with only a 6.4 per cent increase in ordinary votes over the same period. Despite accounting for only a small proportion of the total votes counted, declaration votes contributed 47.2 per cent of the increase in total votes counted between the 1993 and 2001 elections. Table 1 shows a summary of declaration votes counted at the last four Federal elections.

Table 1: Votes Counted, Senate Elections 1993 to 2001

	1993		1996		1998		2001	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Declaration votes:								
Absent votes	653435	5.97	657539	5.82	776859	6.70	780961	6.46
Provisional votes	60592	0.55	105091	0.93	116158	1.00	107396	0.89
Pre-poll votes	357301	3.26	434841	3.85	692377	5.98	585616	4.84
Postal votes	310579	2.84	359604	3.18	488671	4.22	451900	3.74
Total declaration votes	1381907	12.62	1557075	13.79	2074065	17.90	1925873	15.92
Ordinary votes	9572351	87.38	9737404	86.21	9513300	82.10	10172617	84.08
Total votes	10954258	100.00	11294479	100.00	11587365	100.00	12098490	100.00

The table shows a steady increase in declaration voting between 1993 and 1996 and 2001. There was a dramatic increase in declaration voting at the 1998 election. This increase may have been due to the timing of the 1998 election. The 1998 election was held on 3 October, during school holidays and on a long weekend in some states and territories.

Over the period 1993 to 2001 all categories of declaration votes have increased their proportion of the total votes counted. The most dramatic increases occurred with Provisional votes and Pre-Poll votes which increased by 77.2 per cent and 63.9 per cent respectively over the period. This compares to increases of 19.5 per cent for Absent votes and 45.5 per cent for Postal votes.

The rate of increase in Provisional votes appears to have slowed recently, with an increase of only 2.2 per cent over the period 1996 and 2001, a rate of increase only half that of ordinary votes in the same period. This may in large part be due to more accurate roll management practices which have decreased the need for provisional voting on polling day. On the other hand the rate of increase in Pre-poll votes and Postal votes has accelerated, with increases of 34.7 per cent and 25.7 per cent respectively.

The rate of declaration voting at the 2001 election was the second highest ever recorded in Federal electoral history. The last three elections have recorded the three highest rates of declaration voting. Until the 1970s rates of declaration voting were generally below ten per cent. However since 1974 the rate has not fallen below ten per cent. Since the 1984 electoral reforms the rate of declaration voting has averaged nearly fourteen per cent. A summary of votes counted by type of vote at each Senate election since 1901 is provided in Appendix 3.

Table 2 shows votes counted by type at the 2001 Senate election for the States and Territories and for geographic regions. Generally the rate of declaration voting is higher in the more populous States and lower in the less populous States, although the Australian Capital Territory has the highest incidence of any jurisdiction. The inner metropolitan region has the highest rate while the outer metropolitan region has the lowest rate.

Table 2: Votes Counted by Type, 2001 Senate Election

Per cent

	Ordinary Votes	Absent Votes	Provisional Votes	Pre-poll Votes	Postal Votes	Total Declaration Votes
New South Wales	83.95	6.62	0.92	5.24	3.28	16.05
Victoria	84.09	6.31	0.87	4.75	3.98	15.91
Queensland	83.45	6.28	0.92	4.49	4.87	16.55
Western Australia	84.22	8.25	0.82	3.88	2.83	15.78
South Australia	85.94	6.32	0.83	3.34	3.57	14.06
Tasmania	86.43	4.82	1.00	3.71	4.03	13.57
Australian Capital Territory	79.53	2.54	0.68	14.43	2.83	20.47
Northern Territory	85.35	2.17	0.79	9.28	2.41	14.65
Australia	84.08	6.46	0.89	4.84	3.74	15.92
Region:						
Inner Metropolitan	82.80	7.17	0.95	5.30	3.78	17.20
Outer Metropolitan	85.19	6.61	0.82	3.93	3.45	14.81
Provincial	83.54	5.72	0.98	5.47	4.29	16.46
Rural	84.31	5.87	0.87	5.15	3.80	15.69

Detailed statistics on declaration votes at the 2001 Senate election for individual electoral divisions are at Appendix 4. The following table shows divisions with the highest and lowest proportions of declaration votes.

Table 3: Declaration Votes, 2001 Senate Election, Selected Electoral Divisions

Division	Region	Per cent	Division	Region	Per cent
Melbourne Ports	Inner metropolitan	23.30	Braddon	Rural	11.49
Wentworth	Inner metropolitan	22.79	Prospect	Outer metropolitan	11.60
Sydney	Inner metropolitan	22.23	Scullin	Outer metropolitan	11.98
Maranoa	Rural	21.91	Wakefield	Rural	12.03
Melbourne	Inner metropolitan	21.00	Fowler	Outer metropolitan	12.08
Fraser	Inner metropolitan	20.64	Bonython	Outer metropolitan	12.14
Brisbane	Inner metropolitan	20.56	Throsby	Provincial	12.63
Canberra	Inner metropolitan	20.29	Barker	Rural	13.09
North Sydney	Inner metropolitan	19.75	Calwell	Outer metropolitan	13.13
Higgins	Inner metropolitan	19.75	Reid	Inner metropolitan	13.29

Given the requirements that have to be satisfied in order to cast a declaration vote (religious beliefs, travelling, illness, etc.) it is not surprising that electoral divisions that contain substantial numbers of electors with these characteristics are at the top of the list of declaration voters. Inner metropolitan divisions generally have a higher incidence of declaration voting while rural and outer metropolitan divisions generally have a lower rate.

Inner metropolitan divisions generally have higher proportions of high income earners who may be more likely to be travelling at election time while the reverse is true for some outer metropolitan and rural divisions.⁴ Religious beliefs may also play a part in explaining some variations; as Federal elections are held on Saturday (the Jewish Sabbath) it is probably no coincidence that the two divisions with the largest number of persons of the Jewish religion also have the highest proportion of declaration voters.⁵ Ease of access to polling places in other divisions may also be a factor in explaining higher incidences of absent voting in inner city divisions.

The two Australian Capital Territory divisions of Canberra and Fraser have pre-poll voting rates substantially higher than any other divisions. As the ACT electorate has higher

⁴ At the 2001 Census, 35.4% of families in Inner Metropolitan electoral divisions had a family income of \$1500 or more compared to 26.8% of families in Outer Metropolitan divisions and 19.1% in Provincial divisions and 16.2% in Rural divisions. See A. Kopras, 'Electorate Rankings: Census 2001', *Research Paper*, No. 2 2002-03, Department of the Parliamentary Library, Canberra, March 2003

⁵ At the 2001 Census, 13.4% of the population of Wentworth and 13.0% of the population of Melbourne Ports stated their religion as Jewish. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

incomes than average⁶ and is probably more mobile it is not unreasonable to expect considerable numbers of ACT electors to cast pre-poll votes before travelling interstate on the weekend.

The Queensland rural division of Maranoa, however, is one division that does not fit the above scenario. Maranoa has the highest incidence of postal voting in Australia, 10.4 per cent, nearly twice the rate of the next highest division. Maranoa is a large rural division without any substantial urban centres and with a pattern of settlement that makes remote mobile polling facilities impractical. As such a considerable number of electors in Maranoa do not have ready access to a polling place. As a consequence there are more general postal voters registered in Maranoa than any other division, thus contributing to the high incidence of postal voting in the division.

Reasons for Increase in Declaration Votes

In 1983 Commonwealth electoral legislation was substantially rewritten. The 1983 legislation, together with subsequent legislative amendments, have expanded the scope of declaration voting and have allowed the introduction of a number of practices that have directly led to the increase in declaration voting in the last twenty years. These changes to legislation, practices and other possible reasons for the increase in declaration voting are discussed below.

Pre-poll voting

Pre-poll voting, in the form of an oral application postal vote, was first introduced for the 1984 election. In 1990 the Act was amended to recognise pre-poll voting in its current form. Since its introduction there has been a steady increase in the number of electors applying for and casting pre-poll votes. From the electors point of view pre-poll voting is an easy and simple way of casting a non-ordinary vote. The ease of application and simplicity of the voting process for pre-poll voting have undoubtedly contributed to the increase in pre-poll voting. Pre-poll votes can be cast at every Divisional Office of the AEC and at a number of specially established pre-poll voting centres. At the 2001 election there were 306 pre-poll voting centres established.

To cast a pre-poll vote the elector has to attend at a Divisional Office or pre-poll voting centre at the appropriate time and request a pre-poll vote. Pre-poll votes can be applied for between the second day after the day on which nominations are declared (to allow time for the printing of ballot papers) and before the close of polling. The elector must specify the division for which they are enrolled but while they do not have to state the grounds under which they are applying for a pre-poll vote, they must declare that they are eligible for a pre-poll vote. The elector is then handed the pre-poll voting material, which consists of a

⁶ Koprass 2003

pre-poll vote certificate and a ballot paper or papers. The elector signs the pre-poll certificate in front of the Issuing Officer, completes the ballot paper and returns the certificate and ballot papers to the Issuing Officer who places the material in an envelope and puts the sealed envelope in the ballot box.

The ease with which pre-poll votes can be cast and the convenience of voting before polling day (voting in one's lunch time, no interruption to the Saturday's activities, etc.) have led to suggestions that some electors are casting pre-poll votes as a matter of convenience rather than for the grounds specified under the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

General Postal Voters

The 1983 legislation introduced the concept of general postal voters. An elector, who satisfies certain conditions, as set out in section 184A of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, may apply for registration as a general postal voter. The grounds for registration as a general postal voter are only marginally more stringent than those applying to a postal voter. Postal vote grounds that are not allowed include circumstances perceived as temporary such as, approaching childbirth and employment or occupation considerations. The distance from a polling place is increased from eight to twenty kilometres.

Normally electors have to apply for a postal vote at each electoral event, but general postal voters are automatically sent postal vote material (postal vote certificate and ballot papers) by the AEC. By being registered as a general postal voter the elector avoids the necessity of applying for a postal vote at each subsequent electoral event. The number of registered general postal voters has increased substantially at recent elections. At the 1993 election, 40 775 electors were registered as general postal voters, this number increased to 109 817 (169 per cent increase) for the 2001 election. The availability of registration as a general postal voter and the increased number of electors registered has no doubt contributed to the increase in postal votes at recent elections.

As mentioned above the Queensland rural division of Maranoa has the highest rate of general postal voters in Australia. At the 2001 election, 7.0 per cent of electors enrolled in Maranoa were registered as general postal voters. A number of other rural divisions also have high rates of general postal voters: Kennedy 2.68 per cent, Wannon 2.24 per cent and Wide Bay 1.91 per cent. Given the often limited access to polling places in rural divisions it is not surprising that a number of rural divisions should have high rates of general postal voters. What is surprising is that a number of inner metropolitan and provincial divisions also have high rates of general postal voters. At the 2001 election, Shortland had a rate of 1.87 per cent, Banks a rate of 1.79 per cent, Newcastle 1.71 per cent and Blaxland 1.71 per cent. There does not appear to be any demographic factors to explain the high rates in these divisions.

The number of electors registered as general postal voters for each division at the 2001 election is contained in Appendix 5. NSW has the highest average of general postal voters at 1.01 per cent of the certified list for the state while Tasmania has the lowest level of

general postal voter registration at 0.33 per cent of the certified list. The overall national average of general postal voter registration is 0.87 per cent. Thus NSW is above the average level while Tasmania is significantly below. This may indicate that state policies, in addition to geographic factors, impact on the level of general postal voter registration.

Electors living overseas

In 1983 the Act was amended to facilitate the continued enrolment of electors going overseas. The 1983 amendments allowed electors who were going overseas with the intention of returning within three years (increased to six years in 1998) to be registered as an overseas elector. Provided electors are already enrolled they can register as an overseas elector up to three months prior to their expected departure date or within two years of departure. In 1998 the overseas enrolment provisions were further relaxed to allow eligible people living overseas the right to enrol under certain conditions. At the 2001 election some 10 636 electors were enrolled as overseas voters compared with 4087 at the 1996 election.

Overseas electors can either vote in person at selected Australian Diplomatic Missions as a pre-poll voter or apply for a postal vote. At the 2001 election 63 036 votes (50 006 pre-poll votes and 13 030 postal votes) were issued overseas compared with 39 889 at the 1993 election. The increase in the number of overseas electors registered and the number of votes cast overseas in recent elections have undoubtedly had an impact on the increase in declaration votes.

Silent electors

Electors can apply for a silent enrolment if they believe that having their address printed on the publicly available electoral roll could put their personal safety or their family's personal safety at risk. Silent enrolment means that the address of the elector will not be shown on the publicly available electoral roll, including any electronic copies of the roll. To apply for silent enrolment, electors must complete an application form, and submit the form together with a statutory declaration setting out in detail the nature of the personal risk. At the same time, electors can apply to be registered as general postal voters. Silent electors can vote postal, pre-poll or provisional.

Since 1996 the number of silent electors has more than doubled from 13 460 in 1996 to 30 713 in 2001. While a number of silent electors will avail themselves of the opportunity to become general postal voters and thus already be factored into the increase in declaration votes, a number of other silent electors will continue to vote as normal postal voters or as pre-poll or provisional voters. Thus the dramatic increase in silent electors would have contributed somewhat to the increase in declaration votes.

Societal changes

While legislative and administrative changes have probably had the most significant impact on the increase in declaration votes, continuing changes in society also play a part. Changing work patterns, retail shopping hours, availability of entertainment opportunities, greater mobility, changed family and living arrangements, and cultural changes would all play a part in breaking down the Saturday voting ritual.

As the pace of modern society increases, electors are becoming increasingly concerned about the use of their leisure time and are more apt to take advantage of opportunities that maximise that time. It could be that electors consider the inconvenience of ordinary voting at a polling place on the Saturday as an infringement on their time and are prepared to avail themselves of other voting opportunities that may be more convenient.

Regardless of the reasons, there appears to have been a substantial increase in convenience declaration voting at recent elections. Given the factors that appear to be driving this increase there is every expectation that this trend should continue.

Impact on the Electoral System

By their very nature declaration votes present difficulties to electoral administrators. Declaration votes are made because the vote cannot be made in the normal way that is as an ordinary vote at a polling place. The processing of declaration votes from the initial application to the final counting of the ballot paper is a lengthy and costly process. The Commonwealth Electoral Act is quite prescriptive in setting out the procedures to be followed for the processing of declaration votes. Any increase in the number of declaration votes will add to the cost of elections and place continuing cost pressures on electoral authorities.

As well as being costly to administer, the processing of declaration votes also takes time. There are delays inherent in the system that can lead to declaration votes not being counted till a number of days after polling day. In the case of postal votes, considerable time can elapse from the date of initial application by the elector till the counting of the ballot paper by the AEC. As the number of declaration votes increases it is not inconceivable that the election outcome itself could be delayed as declaration votes are received and counted. A feature of the Australian electoral system is that the election outcome is generally known on the night of the polling day. Any delays in knowing the election outcome would be a matter of concern to the electorate.

The increase in postal voting may also have implications for the secrecy of the ballot. Postal votes are not cast in the same controlled environment as ordinary and other declaration votes. Ordinary and other declaration votes are cast in designated polling places where electoral officials can, for the most part, ensure the secrecy and integrity of the ballot. Because postal votes are cast beyond the purview of independent electoral officials there is scope for the secrecy of the ballot to be compromised.

Some Reform Options

The current legislation and practices for declaration voting have delivered a system that has produced increasing rates of apparent convenience declaration voting, a costly and time consuming administration process. If the current rate of declaration voting is to be contained or reduced, then some or all of these issues may need to be considered. Some possible options to reform declaration voting are outlined below.

Treat Pre-poll votes as Ordinary votes

Since 1993 the AEC has recommended to the JSCEM that the Act be amended to allow pre-poll votes to be treated as ordinary votes rather than declaration votes if the pre-poll vote was cast in the elector's home division. This would mean that the elector's name would be immediately marked off the Certified List as having voted and there would be a reduction in the time delay associated with the processing of declaration votes and a reduction in the administrative load and costs associated with the issuing, sorting, and collating of declaration votes, and faster election results. Pre-poll ordinary voting for the home division is already in operation for Victorian state elections and Australian Capital Territory elections.

The JSCEM has rejected the recommendations from the AEC on the grounds that such a change would only encourage and endorse the trend towards an ever-increasing proportion of the vote being cast before polling day. It is difficult to see how a change in the administrative arrangements for pre-polls would encourage a greater use of pre-poll voting. Under the proposal, the elector would, instead of making a written declaration, simply make an oral declaration in the same manner as an ordinary elector on polling day, with their name immediately marked off the Certified List. Thus while the requirements for applying for a pre-poll vote would be essentially unchanged, the processing of that vote once it is issued would be made less complex. This would have both time and cost advantages for electors and the AEC.

Stricter enforcement

Under current regulations electors who apply for a pre-poll or postal vote are required to sign a declaration to the effect that they are entitled to apply for a pre-poll or postal vote. Electors are asked to check the 'qualifications for an applicant' displayed on the form or in the pre-poll centre before they sign the declaration. They are not asked to specify which of the grounds they qualify under.

In its submission to the Inquiry into the conduct of the 1998 election, the AEC proposed that the requirements for electors applying for a postal vote be changed so that applicants are asked to indicate the reason they require a postal vote from a list of reasons permitted

in the Act.⁷ The JSCEM supported this proposal and made a recommendation that it be extended to include pre-poll voting.⁸ In its response to the JSCEM report on the 1998 election, the Government stated that it does not believe that there is any justification at present for this requirement to be introduced.

Summary

It would be generally agreed that given the compulsory nature of voting in Australia, electors should be provided with a number of voting options. Under current legislation eligible electors may vote on or before polling day either by pre-poll or postal vote or outside their division on polling day by absent vote or by provisional vote.

While it is fundamental to the legitimacy of the electoral process in Australia that electors have a choice of voting options, such choice must be exercised within the legislative provisions. With the expansion of declaration voting opportunities, there has been a corresponding and significant increase in declaration voting at recent elections. It would appear that some of this increase is as a result of convenience voting, and as such is not in accordance with the spirit of existing legislative provisions which presume voters will attend the ballot on polling day unless defined extenuating circumstances are found to apply to their particular situation.

⁷ AEC, *Australian Electoral Commission Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters on the Conduct of the 1998 Federal Election*, Australian Electoral Commission, Canberra, March 1999, Para.8.6.16

⁸ JSCEM 2000, Recommendation 21 p. 49

Appendix 1 Chronology of Commonwealth Legislative Provisions for Declaration Voting

Legislation	Provision
Commonwealth Electoral Act 1902 (No. 19 of 1902)	<p>Postal vote available to: electors more than 5 miles (8 kilometres) from the polling place for which they are enrolled, women expecting to be in ill-health, or an elector prevented by illness or infirmity from voting</p> <p>Absent vote available to electors to allow voting at any polling place within the division or within the State (if regulations allow).</p>
Commonwealth Electoral Act 1911 (No 17 of 1911)	<p>Postal voting abolished.</p> <p>Absent voting available: in advance of polling day at an Electoral Registrar's Office for an elector who expects not to be within any division on polling day, or to any other elector at any polling place in the Commonwealth on polling day.</p>
Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (No 27 of 1918)	<p>Postal vote restored to electors who: are 10 miles or more (16 kilometres) from a polling place, or are travelling on polling day and unable to attend at a polling place, or are seriously ill or infirm, or a woman approaching childbirth and unable to attend at a polling place.</p> <p>Advance absent voting abolished.</p> <p>Absent vote on polling day available at any polling place in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Provisional vote available to electors not on the certified list or struck out of the list.</p>
Commonwealth Electoral Act 1919 (No 31 of 1919)	<p>Postal vote made available to electors outside their enrolled State on polling day.</p> <p>Absent voting restricted to any polling place within the electors own State</p>
Commonwealth Electoral Act 1922 (No 14 of 1922)	<p>Provisional vote extended to electors whose name has been marked off the certified list as having already voted.</p>
Commonwealth Electoral Act 1928 (No 17 of 1928)	<p>Postal vote – allowed distance from polling place reduced to 5 miles (8 kilometres).</p>

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1952 (No 106 of 1952)	Postal vote extended to applicants temporarily outside Australia.
Commonwealth Electoral Act 1961 (No 26 of 1961)	Postal vote reasons extended to include membership of a religious order or religious beliefs
Commonwealth Electoral Legislation Amendment Act 1983 (No 144 of 1983)	Postal vote reasons expanded to include electors in hospital and special hospitals, carers for the ill and infirm, electors in prison or in detention. Registration as a general postal voter introduced. Pre-poll voting in the form of an oral postal vote introduced. Removal of penalty for inducing an elector to apply for a postal vote. Provisional vote extended to silent electors. Allow enrolled electors leaving Australia for no more than 3 years to retain enrolment as an eligible overseas elector.
Electoral and Referendum Amendment Act 1990 (No 24 of 1990)	Postal vote reasons expanded to include silent electors and electors unable to attend a polling place for employment reasons. Pre-poll voting explicitly mentioned, grounds for application the same as for a postal vote. Provision of electronic copy of roll to parties.
Electoral and Referendum Amendment Act 1998 (No 94 of 1998)	Allow eligible Australians living overseas to enrol and obtain eligible overseas elector status. Increase period of registration of overseas elector status from 3 to 6 years. Allow parties and candidates to print approved postal vote application form in campaign material.
Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Act (No 1) 2000 (No 126 of 2000)	Electronic provision of additional elector information, including general postal voter indicator, to parties.
Electoral and Referendum Amendment Act (No 1) 2001 (No 34 of 2001)	Electronic provision of postal voter applications to parties following a general election.

Appendix 2 Extracts from *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*

Part XV—Postal voting

182 Interpretation

In this Part:

appropriate DRO, in relation to an application or anything to be done by an elector, means the DRO for the Division for which the elector is enrolled.

Register, in relation to a Division, means the Register of General Postal Voters for the Division.

183 Grounds of application for postal vote

An elector may apply for a postal vote on any of the grounds set out in Schedule 2.

184 Application for postal vote

- (1) An application shall be in writing in the approved form and shall:
 - (a) contain a declaration by the applicant that he or she is an elector entitled to apply for a postal vote; and
 - (b) be signed by the applicant in the presence of an authorised witness (but see subsection (3A)).
- (2) An application made in Australia shall be made to a DRO.
- (3) An application made outside Australia shall be made to an Assistant Returning Officer or a DRO.
- (3A) An application made outside Australia that does not meet the requirement in paragraph (1)(b) is taken to meet that requirement for the purposes of this Act if:
 - (a) the application is accompanied by a signed statement by the applicant setting out why the applicant was unable to meet the requirement; and
 - (b) the Assistant Returning Officer or DRO is satisfied that the applicant made reasonable efforts to comply with the requirement; and
 - (c) the application is accompanied by a photocopy, that is certified by the applicant to be a true copy, of a part of the applicant's passport that includes:
 - (i) the country and date of issue and the number of the passport; and
 - (ii) the applicant's name, date of birth and signature; and
 - (iii) a photograph of the applicant.
- (4) An application for a postal vote may not be made until after the issue of the writ for the election in relation to which a postal vote is sought or the public announcement of the proposed date for the polling, whichever is the earlier.

- (5) An application shall be regarded as not having been made if it reaches the officer to whom it is directed after 6 p.m. on the day before polling day in the election.

184A Application for registration as general postal voter

- (1) An elector may apply to the appropriate DRO for registration as a general postal voter.
- (2) An application shall be made on one of the following grounds:
- (a) the applicant's real place of living is not within 20 kilometres, by the shortest practicable route:
 - (i) of any polling place; or
 - (ii) of any place determined under paragraph 227(4)(a) to be a place that will be visited by mobile polling teams for the purposes of section 227;
 - (b) the applicant:
 - (i) is a patient at a hospital (other than a special hospital or a hospital that is a polling place); and
 - (ii) because of serious illness or infirmity, is unable to travel from the hospital to a polling place;
 - (c) because of serious illness or infirmity, the applicant is unable to travel from the place where he or she lives to a polling place;
 - (ca) because the applicant will be at a place (other than a hospital) caring for a person who is seriously ill or infirm, the applicant is unable to travel from that place to a polling place;
 - (d) the applicant is detained in custody;
 - (e) the enrolment of the applicant was obtained by means of a claim signed under subsection 98(3);
 - (f) a registered medical practitioner has certified, in writing, that the applicant is so physically incapacitated as to be incapable of signing his or her name;
 - (g) the applicant's address has been excluded from the Roll under section 104;
 - (h) because of the applicant's religious beliefs or membership of a religious order, the applicant:
 - (i) is precluded from attending a polling booth; or
 - (ii) for the greater part of the hours of polling on polling day, is precluded from attending a polling booth.
- (3) An application in respect of an elector to whom paragraph (2)(e) or (f) applies may be made by another person on behalf of the elector.
- (4) The certificate referred to in paragraph (2)(f) shall be lodged with an application made on the ground set out in that paragraph.

184AA Application forms for postal votes

- (1) An application form for a postal vote may be physically attached to, or form part of, other written material issued by any person or organisation.

- (2) For the purposes of the *Copyright Act 1968*, if a person other than the owner of the copyright in the application form for a postal vote reproduces the application form, the person is not taken to have infringed the copyright in the application form.

184B Register of General Postal Voters

- (1) The DRO for a Division shall keep a Register of General Postal Voters in respect of the Division.
- (2) The Register shall be available at the office of the DRO during ordinary office hours for inspection, without fee, by members of the public.

185 Registration as general postal voter

- (1) If the DRO to whom an application has been made is satisfied that the application has been made in accordance with section 184A, the DRO shall register the applicant as a general postal voter.
- (2) Where:
 - (a) a claim for enrolment or transfer of enrolment is made to the appropriate DRO;
 - (b) the claim is signed under subsection 98(3); and
 - (c) the claim indicates that the claimant wishes to be registered as a general postal voter;the DRO shall register the claimant as a general postal voter.
- (3) Where an elector who is registered as a general postal voter for a Division (in this subsection called the *original Division*) makes a claim for transfer of enrolment to another Division (the *new Division*), the matter shall be dealt with as follows:
 - (a) when notified of the transfer of enrolment, the DRO for the original Division shall notify the DRO for the new Division that the elector was so registered;
 - (b) the DRO for the original Division shall cancel the registration of the elector; and
 - (c) except in the case of an elector whose address has been excluded from the Roll under section 104, the DRO for the new Division shall register the elector unless the DRO is satisfied that the elector would not be entitled to registration on application under subsection 184A(1).
- (4) Registration of an elector as a general postal voter for a Division is effected by entering in the Register the following particulars of the elector:
 - (a) full name;
 - (b) except in the case of an elector whose address has been excluded from the Roll under section 104, the address shown in the Roll as the real place of living of the elector;
 - (c) such other particulars (if any) as the Electoral Commission determines.
- (5) A DRO who registers an elector as a general postal voter shall notify the elector in writing of the registration.

- (6) A DRO who decides not to register an elector as a general postal voter shall notify the elector in writing of the decision and of the reasons for it.

185B Review of Registers

The DRO for a Division shall, when so directed by the Electoral Commission, examine the Register for the Division and make such alterations to the Register as are necessary to ensure that:

- (a) only electors entitled to be registered as general postal voters for the Division are so registered; and
- (b) the particulars entered in the Register are accurate.

185C Cancellation of registration

- (1) The DRO for a Division may cancel the registration of an elector as a general postal voter for the Division if the DRO is satisfied that the ground on which the elector applied for registration no longer exists.
- (2) The DRO shall give to the elector, personally or by post, written notice of the cancellation and of the elector's right to request the DRO to refer the cancellation to the Australian Electoral Officer for the State for which the elector is enrolled for review under section 120.

186 Dispatch of postal voting papers to registered general postal voters

- (1) As soon as a DRO for a Division receives ballot-papers for a Senate election or a House of Representatives election, or both, as the case may be, the DRO must send or arrange for the delivery of postal voting papers to each registered general postal voter for the Division.
- (2) In this section:

postal voting papers means:

- (a) a postal vote certificate; and
- (b) one postal ballot-paper for a Senate election or one postal ballot-paper for a House of Representatives election, or both, as the case requires; and
- (c) an envelope addressed to the DRO.

187 Duty of witness

- (1) A person shall not witness the signature of another person (in this section called the *elector*) on an application for a postal vote unless:
 - (a) the person is satisfied of the identity of the elector;
 - (b) the person has seen the elector sign the application; and
 - (c) either:
 - (i) the person knows that the statements in the application are true; or

- (ii) the person is satisfied, on the basis of inquiries of the elector or otherwise, that the statements in the application are true.

Penalty: \$500.

- (2) The person who witnesses the signature of the elector to the application shall sign the application in his or her own handwriting and write on the application the date of signature.

188 Issue of certificate and ballot-papers

- (1) A DRO or Assistant Returning Officer who receives an application, properly signed and witnessed, for a postal vote shall post or arrange to be delivered to the applicant:
 - (a) a postal vote certificate; and
 - (b) one postal ballot-paper for a Senate election or one postal ballot-paper for a House of Representatives election, or both, as the case requires; and
 - (c) an envelope addressed:
 - (i) if the application is provided to an Assistant Returning Officer outside Australia—to the Assistant Returning Officer or to the DRO for the Division for which the applicant declares that he or she is enrolled; or
 - (ii) otherwise—to the DRO for the Division for which the applicant declares that he or she is enrolled.

Note: An application may be taken to be properly witnessed because of subsection 184(3A).

- (2) In spite of subsection (1), where the application is received after the last mail clearance at the nearest post office on the last Thursday before polling day, the DRO or Assistant Returning Officer shall not post to the applicant a postal vote certificate or ballot-paper.

189 Inspection of applications

- (1) A DRO who issues a postal vote certificate and postal ballot-paper shall:
 - (a) write on the application the date of issue of the certificate and ballot-paper; and
 - (b) if the DRO is not the appropriate DRO, send the application to the appropriate DRO.
- (2) An Assistant Returning Officer who issues a postal vote certificate and postal ballot-paper shall:
 - (a) write on the application the date of issue of the certificate and ballot-paper; and
 - (b) deal with the application in accordance with subsection 228(8).
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), all applications for postal votes in relation to which a DRO is the appropriate DRO shall be open to public inspection at the office of the DRO during ordinary office hours from and including the third day after polling day until the election can no longer be questioned.

- (4) A DRO, before making applications for postal votes available for public inspection, must remove from any application by a person whose address has been removed from the Roll under section 104, all information other than the person's name.

189A Access to electronic list of postal vote applicants

- (1) A request for a list, in electronic form, of the postal vote applicants may be made to the Electoral Commission by:
 - (a) a candidate in a Senate election if the postal vote applications are in respect of any Division in the State or Territory for which the candidate stood for election; or
 - (b) a candidate in a House of Representatives election if the postal vote applications are in respect of the Division for which the candidate stood for election; or
 - (c) a registered political party if the postal vote applications are in respect of a Division in a State or Territory on the basis of which a branch or division of the party is organised.

The request may be made on or after the third day after polling day and before the election can no longer be questioned.

- (2) The Electoral Commission must, as soon as practicable, comply with such a request.
- (3) The list may include the name and date of birth of a postal vote applicant and the address in respect of which the applicant claims to be enrolled.
- (4) However, before providing the list to a person or party, the Electoral Commission must remove from it all information concerning a person whose address has been excluded from the Roll under section 104, other than the person's name.

189B Restriction on use or disclosure of information

Use of information

- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if the person:
 - (a) uses information obtained from an electronic list of postal vote applicants provided by the Electoral Commission; and
 - (b) the use of the information is not for a permitted purpose (see subsections (4) and (5)).

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units.

Disclosure of information

- (2) A person is guilty of an offence if:
 - (a) the person discloses information; and
 - (b) the person knows that, or is reckless as to whether, the information has been obtained from an electronic list of postal vote applicants provided by the Electoral Commission; and

- (c) the disclosure would not be a use of the information for a permitted purpose (see subsections (4) and (5)).

Maximum penalty: 1,000 penalty units.

Use of information for a commercial purpose

- (3) A person is guilty of an offence if:
 - (a) the person uses information for a commercial purpose; and
 - (b) the person knows that, or is reckless as to whether, the information has been obtained from an electronic list of postal vote applicants provided by the Electoral Commission.

Maximum penalty: 1,000 penalty units.

Permitted purposes

- (4) If the list was provided by the Electoral Commission to a candidate in a Senate or House of Representatives election, the ***permitted purposes*** are:
 - (a) any purpose connected with an election or referendum; and
 - (b) research about electoral matters; and
 - (c) the monitoring of the accuracy of information contained in a Roll; and
 - (d) the performance by the candidate of his or her functions if elected as a Senator or member in relation to a person included in the list.
- (5) If the list was provided by the Electoral Commission to a registered political party, the ***permitted purposes*** are:
 - (a) any purpose connected with an election or referendum; and
 - (b) research about electoral matters; and
 - (c) the monitoring of the accuracy of information contained in a Roll; and
 - (d) the performance by a Senator or member of the House of Representatives, who is a member of the party, of his or her functions as a Senator or member in relation to a person included in the list.

Definitions

- (6) In this section:

election means:

- (a) a Senate election; or
- (b) a House of Representatives election; or
- (c) a State or Territory election; or
- (d) a local government election.

referendum means a referendum conducted under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

190 Numbering of applications and certificates

- (1) A DRO or Assistant Returning Officer shall allocate a number to each application for a postal vote and shall number each postal vote certificate with a number corresponding to the number of the application.
- (2) The DRO or Assistant Returning Officer who issues a ballot-paper shall initial the top of the front of the paper.

192 Form of postal vote certificate

A postal vote certificate shall be in the approved form.

193 Authorised witnesses

- (1) An elector whose name appears on a Roll is an authorised witness.
- (2) Outside Australia, the following persons are authorised witnesses:
 - (a) an officer of the Defence Force or of the naval, military or air forces of a Commonwealth country;
 - (b) a person appointed or engaged under the *Public Service Act 1999*;
 - (c) a member of the civil or public service of a Territory or of a Commonwealth country;
 - (d) a Justice of the Peace for a State or Territory or a Commonwealth country;
 - (e) a minister of religion or medical practitioner resident in a State or Territory or a Commonwealth country;
 - (f) an Australian citizen.
- (3) A person who is a candidate at an election is not an authorised witness in relation to the casting of a postal vote in that election.
- (4) In this section:

Commonwealth country means a political entity, or part of a political entity, that is a member of the international organisation known as the Commonwealth of Nations.

194 Postal voting

- (1) The following requirements for postal voting shall be substantially observed:
 - (a) the elector shall show the unsigned postal vote certificate and the unmarked postal ballot-paper to an authorised witness;
 - (b) except in the case of an elector registered as a general postal voter on the ground set out in paragraph 184A(2)(e) or (f), the elector shall sign the postal vote certificate in the presence of the authorised witness;
 - (c) the authorised witness shall sign the certificate as witness, adding the date and an indication of the capacity in which the witness acts;
 - (d) the elector shall then, in the presence of the authorised witness but so that the witness cannot see the vote, mark his or her vote on the ballot-paper, fold the

ballot-paper, place it in the envelope addressed to the appropriate DRO and fasten the envelope;

- (e) the elector shall post or deliver the envelope to the appropriate DRO;
- (f) if the elector cannot read or is so disabled as to be unable to vote without assistance, a person chosen by the elector may, according to the directions of the elector, complete the postal vote certificate and do for the elector any act required by paragraph (d) or (e);
- (g) directions under paragraph (f) may be given by reference to a how-to-vote card.

(1A) A postal vote by an elector outside Australia that does not meet the requirements in subsection (1) concerning an authorised witness is, despite that subsection, taken to meet those requirements for the purposes of this Act if:

- (a) the postal vote is accompanied by a signed statement by the elector setting out why the elector was unable to comply with those requirements; and
- (b) the DRO or officer dealing with the postal vote under section 195A is satisfied that the elector made reasonable efforts to comply with those requirements; and
- (c) the postal vote is accompanied by a photocopy, that is certified by the elector to be a true copy, of a part of the elector's passport that includes:
 - (i) the country and date of issue and the number of the passport; and
 - (ii) the elector's name, date of birth and signature; and
 - (iii) a photograph of the elector.

(2) In spite of paragraph (1)(e), where:

- (a) a ballot-paper, if posted before the close of the poll, would be unlikely to reach the appropriate DRO within 13 days after polling day; or
- (b) a ballot-paper, if it were to be delivered to the appropriate DRO, would be unlikely to reach the DRO before the close of the poll;

the envelope containing the ballot-paper may:

- (c) before the close of the poll be addressed to, and posted or delivered to, any other DRO or to an Assistant Returning Officer at a place outside Australia;
- (d) be handed to a pre-poll voting officer; or
- (e) be delivered, on polling day and before the close of the poll, to any presiding officer.

(3) A DRO, Assistant Returning Officer, presiding officer or pre-poll voting officer to whom an envelope containing a ballot-paper is posted or delivered under subsection (2) shall deal with the envelope and ballot-paper according to sections 195A and 228.

195 Duty of authorised witnesses etc.

Except at the request of the elector, a person shall not:

- (a) interfere with an elector in relation to the marking of a postal ballot-paper; or

- (b) do anything that would enable the person or any other person to find out how an elector marked a postal ballot-paper.

Penalty: \$1,000.

195A Procedure for dealing with postal vote certificates etc.

- (1) In this section, *officer* means:
 - (a) a pre-poll voting officer;
 - (b) a presiding officer; or
 - (c) an Assistant Returning Officer at a place outside Australia.
- (2) Where:
 - (a) a DRO receives an envelope bearing a postal vote certificate and purporting to contain a postal ballot-paper issued in respect of a Division other than the Division for which the DRO is appointed; or
 - (b) an officer receives an envelope bearing a postal vote certificate and purporting to contain a postal ballot-paper;the DRO or officer shall:
 - (c) endorse on the envelope “Received by me” and the date and time of receipt;
 - (d) sign the endorsement, adding the words “Divisional Returning Officer”, “Pre-poll Voting Officer”, “Presiding Officer” or “Assistant Returning Officer”, as the case may be;
 - (e) make a record of the name of the voter and the name of the Division as shown in the postal vote certificate;
 - (f) deal with the envelope in accordance with section 228; and
 - (g) until the envelope is so dealt with, keep the envelope in a ballot-box.

196 Opening of postal ballot-paper

- (1) A person other than:
 - (a) the DRO for the Division in respect of which a postal ballot-paper has been issued; or
 - (b) an officer acting at the direction of the DRO;shall not open an envelope that purports to contain a postal ballot-paper on which a vote has been recorded.

Penalty: \$500.

- (2) Strict liability applies to an offence against subsection (1).

Note: For *strict liability*, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

197 Failure to post or deliver postal vote application etc.

A person to whom an elector entrusts:

- (a) an application for a postal vote; or

(b) an envelope apparently containing a postal ballot-paper;
for posting or delivery to an officer shall post or deliver the application or envelope,
as the case may be, as soon as practicable.

Penalty: \$1,000.

198 Inducing elector to hand over marked ballot-paper

A person shall not induce an elector to hand over to the person a postal ballot-paper
on which a vote has been recorded.

Penalty: \$1,000.

199 Correction of formal errors

If an officer who receives:

- (a) an application for a postal vote; or
- (b) a postal vote certificate;

is satisfied that the application or certificate contains a formal error, the officer may
amend the application or certificate to correct the error.

200 Mistakes

- (1) A postal vote shall not be rejected because only the surname of a candidate has been
written on the ballot-paper if no other candidate has the same surname.
- (2) A postal vote shall not be rejected because of a mistake in spelling if the elector's
intention is clear.

Part XVA—Pre-poll voting

200A Grounds of application for pre-poll vote

An elector may apply for a pre-poll vote on any of the grounds set out in Schedule 2.

200B Pre-poll voting officers

The Electoral Commission may appoint a person to be a pre-poll voting officer for the purposes of this Act.

200C Application for pre-poll vote

- (1) An application for a pre-poll vote may be made to:
 - (a) any Divisional Returning Officer;
 - (b) any pre-poll voting officer; or
 - (c) an Assistant Returning Officer at a place outside Australia.
- (2) The application must be made by the elector in person.
- (3) The elector making the application shall inform the officer to whom the application is made of:
 - (a) the Division for which the elector is enrolled; and
 - (b) any matters prescribed by the regulations.

200D Place and time of application

- (1) An application to a DRO shall be made at the office of the DRO during ordinary office hours or during the hours of polling on polling day.
- (2) An application to a pre-poll voting officer shall be made:
 - (a) at a place declared by the Electoral Commission, by notice published in the *Gazette*, to be a pre-poll voting office; and
 - (b) on a day, and during the hours, fixed by the Electoral Commission, by notice published in the *Gazette*, for such applications.
- (3) An application to an Assistant Returning Officer shall be made:
 - (a) at the office of the Assistant Returning Officer; and
 - (b) during ordinary office hours or during such other hours as the Assistant Returning Officer fixes.
- (4) An application that relates to:
 - (a) a Senate election; or

(b) a Senate election and a House of Representatives election to be held on the same day;

cannot be made earlier than the second day after the day on which nominations for the Senate election are declared under subsection 176(1).

(5) An application that relates to a House of Representatives election that is not to be held on the same day as a Senate election cannot be made earlier than the day after the day on which nominations for the election are declared under subsection 176(2).

(6) An elector may not make an application after the close of the poll in the State or Territory in which the elector is making the application.

200E Pre-poll voting

(1) The officer to whom an application for a pre-poll vote is made (in this section called *the issuing officer*) shall issue to the elector:

(a) a pre-poll vote certificate; and

(b) one ballot-paper for a Senate election or one ballot-paper for a House of Representatives election, or both, as the case requires.

(2) Before issuing the ballot-paper, the officer shall initial the top of the front of the paper.

(3) The elector shall sign the pre-poll vote certificate in the presence of the issuing officer.

(4) The issuing officer shall then sign the pre-poll vote certificate as witness, adding the date.

(5) The elector shall then, in the presence of the issuing officer but so that the officer cannot see the vote, mark his or her vote on the ballot-paper, fold the ballot-paper and return it to the issuing officer.

(6) The issuing officer shall immediately place the ballot-paper in the envelope bearing the pre-poll vote certificate, fasten the envelope and, until the envelope is dealt with under section 228, keep the envelope in a ballot-box.

(7) If the elector satisfies the officer that the elector cannot read or is so disabled as to be unable to vote without assistance, a person chosen by the elector may, according to the directions of the elector, do any of the following acts:

(a) fill in the pre-poll vote certificate with the required particulars;

(b) read the certificate to the voter;

(c) complete the certificate;

(d) mark the elector's vote on the ballot-paper;

(e) fold the ballot-paper and return it to the officer.

(8) Directions under subsection (7) may be given by reference to a how-to-vote card.

- (9) An elector to whom a pre-poll vote certificate and ballot-paper have been issued is not entitled:
- (a) to vote at a polling booth; or
 - (b) to remove the certificate or ballot-paper from the office of the officer who issued it.

200F Form of pre-poll vote certificate

A pre-poll vote certificate shall:

- (a) be in the approved form;
- (b) carry a distinguishing number that is the same as the number allocated to the record of the application for the certificate; and
- (c) be printed on an envelope addressed to the DRO for the Division for which the elector declares that he or she is enrolled.

200G Record of issue of pre-poll voting papers

- (1) Where the DRO for a Division issues a pre-poll vote certificate and ballot-paper to a person enrolled for the Division, the DRO shall make a record of the date of issue of the certificate and ballot-paper and the name of the person and shall allocate a number to the record.
- (2) Where:
- (a) any other DRO;
 - (b) a pre-poll voting officer; or
 - (c) an Assistant Returning Officer at a place outside Australia;
- issues a pre-poll vote certificate and ballot-paper, he or she shall:
- (d) make a record of the date of issue of the certificate and ballot-paper, the name of the person to whom the certificate and ballot-paper were issued and the name of the Division for which the person is enrolled and shall allocate a number to the record; and
 - (e) deal with the record of the issue of the certificate and ballot-paper in accordance with section 228.
- (3) Records made by a DRO under subsection (1) and records forwarded to the DRO under section 228 shall be open to public inspection at the office of the DRO during ordinary office hours from and including the third day after polling day until the election can no longer be questioned.

200J Opening of pre-poll voting envelope

- (1) A person other than:
- (a) the DRO for the Division in respect of which a pre-poll vote ballot-paper has been issued; or

(b) an officer acting at the direction of the DRO;
shall not open an envelope containing a ballot-paper given to an officer under subsection 200E(5) or (7).

Penalty: \$500.

(2) Strict liability applies to an offence against subsection (1).

Note: For *strict liability*, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

200K Obligations of persons present when pre-poll vote cast

A person who is present when an elector signs a pre-poll vote certificate or marks a ballot-paper in the presence of an officer:

- (a) shall obey all directions of the officer; and
- (b) except at the request of the elector:
 - (i) shall not make any communication to the elector in relation to the elector's vote;
 - (ii) shall not assist the elector or in any way interfere with the elector in relation to the elector's vote; and
 - (iii) shall not do anything that would enable the person to find out how the elector marked the ballot-paper.

Penalty: \$1,000.

201 Correction of formal errors

If an officer who receives a pre-poll vote certificate under subsection 200E(5) is satisfied that the certificate contains a formal error, the officer may amend the certificate to correct the error.

202 Mistakes

- (1) A pre-poll vote shall not be rejected because only the surname of a candidate has been written on the ballot-paper if no other candidate has the same surname.
- (2) A pre-poll vote shall not be rejected because of a mistake in spelling if the elector's intention is clear.

222 Where electors may vote

- (1) On polling day an elector is entitled to vote at any polling place for the Division for which he or she is enrolled or to vote as an absent voter, on making a declaration in an approved form, at any other polling place within the State or Territory for which he or she is enrolled at which a polling booth is open.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), where a hospital is a polling place, an elector is not entitled to vote at that polling place otherwise than under section 224 unless an appropriate person on the staff of the hospital has agreed to permit electors generally to vote at that polling place or unless the elector:
 - (a) is attending the hospital as a patient or as a genuine visitor of a patient; or
 - (b) performs functions or duties in the hospital.
- (3) A declaration made by an absent voter under subsection (1) shall be printed on, or securely attached to, an envelope addressed to the Divisional Returning Officer for the Division for which the elector declares that he or she is enrolled.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall authorize any elector to vote more than once at any election.

229 Questions to be put to voter

- (1) The presiding officer shall put the following questions to each person attending before the presiding officer and claiming to vote in an election or elections:
 - (a) What is your full name?
 - (b) Where do you live?
 - (c) Have you voted before in this election? or Have you voted before in these elections? (as the case requires).
- (2) In addition to the questions put under subsection (1), the presiding officer shall ask each person claiming to vote as an absent voter in an election to identify the Division for which the person is enrolled.
- (4) If the answers to the questions specified in paragraphs (1)(a) and (b) that are given by a person claiming to vote are not sufficient to distinguish that person from another person on the certified list of voters, the presiding officer may, for the purpose of distinguishing the 2 persons, ask the person claiming to vote another question or other questions relating to matters shown on the certified list of voters in relation to those persons.
- (5) Subject to section 235, if a person claiming to vote to whom questions are put under this section:
 - (a) refuses to answer fully any question so put; or
 - (c) answers a question specified in paragraph (1)(c) in the affirmative;the person's claim to vote shall be rejected.

235 Provisional votes

- (1) This section applies to a person claiming to vote if:
 - (a) the person's name cannot be found on the certified list of voters for the Division for which the person claims to vote;
 - (b) the person's name is on the certified list of voters for the Division but his or her address does not appear on the list; or
 - (d) a mark on the certified list of voters used at the polling place indicates that the person has already voted at that polling place.
- (2) A person to whom this section applies may cast a provisional vote if the person signs a declaration in the approved form on an envelope addressed to the DRO for the Division for which the voter is, or claims to be, enrolled.
- (3) The person shall sign the declaration in the presence of a polling official.
- (4) The polling official shall then sign the declaration as witness, adding the date.
- (5) Before issuing a ballot-paper to the person, a polling official shall give the person a statement in writing in the approved form explaining the effect of this section and indicating the steps that will be taken if the person casts a provisional vote.
- (6) A person who casts a provisional vote shall fold the ballot-paper and hand it to the polling official who issued it.
- (7) The polling official shall, in the presence of the voter, without unfolding the ballot-paper, place it in the envelope bearing the voter's declaration, fasten the envelope and place the envelope in the ballot-box.
- (8) The Assistant Returning Officer who opens the ballot-box shall deal with the envelope according to section 228.

266 Preliminary scrutiny of declaration votes

- (1) At any time on or after the last Monday before the close of the poll for a Division, the DRO shall conduct such preliminary scrutinies as he or she considers necessary until:
 - (a) all written applications for postal votes have been produced;
 - (b) all envelopes received by the DRO before the end of 13 days after the close of the poll and purporting to contain postal ballot-papers have been dealt with under this section; and
 - (c) all other envelopes received by officers prior to the close of the poll and purporting to contain ballot-papers bearing declaration votes have been dealt with under this section.
- (2) The DRO shall give notice of the commencement of a preliminary scrutiny as follows:
 - (a) a notice specifying the date, time and place of commencement shall be displayed in a prominent place in the DRO's office;
 - (b) the notice shall be displayed not later than 4 p.m. on the day before the day of commencement.
- (3) A preliminary scrutiny for a Division shall be conducted according to the rules set out in Schedule 3.
- (4) The DRO may, from time to time, adjourn a preliminary scrutiny to a specified date, time and place.
- (5) For the purposes of this Part, anything done under this section in relation to an election shall be taken to be part of the scrutiny in relation to the election.

Schedule 2—Grounds of application for postal or pre-poll vote

Sections 183 and 200A

1. Throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be absent from the State or Territory for which the elector is enrolled.
2. The elector will not, at any time during the hours of polling on polling day, be within 8 kilometres by the nearest practicable route of any polling booth in the State or Territory for which the elector is enrolled.
3. Throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be travelling under conditions that will prevent the elector attending a polling booth in the State or Territory for which the elector is enrolled.
4. The elector will be unable to attend a polling booth on polling day because of:
 - (a) serious illness;
 - (b) infirmity; or
 - (c) approaching childbirth.

(In the case of an elector who will be a patient at a hospital on polling day, this paragraph applies regardless of the operation of sections 224 and 225.)
5. On polling day, the elector will be unable to attend a polling booth because the elector will be at a place (other than a hospital) caring for a person who is seriously ill or infirm or who is expected shortly to give birth.
6. Throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be a patient at a hospital (other than a special hospital) and unable to vote at the hospital.
7. Throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be a patient at a special hospital but will be unable to have his or her vote taken under section 225.
8. Because of the elector's religious beliefs or membership of a religious order, the elector:
 - (a) is precluded from attending a polling booth; or
 - (b) for the greater part of the hours of polling on polling day, is precluded from attending a polling booth.
9. On polling day, the elector will be serving a sentence of imprisonment or otherwise under detention.
10. The elector's address has been excluded from the Roll under section 104.
11. Throughout the hours of polling on polling day, the elector will be engaged in his or her employment or occupation and:

- (a) if the elector is an employee, the elector is not entitled to leave of absence under section 345; and
- (b) in any other case, the absence of the elector for the purpose of attending at a polling booth to vote would be likely to cause loss to the person in his or her occupation.

Schedule 3—Rules for the conduct of a preliminary scrutiny of declaration votes

Subsection 266(3)

1. The DRO shall produce unopened all envelopes containing declaration votes of the kind to which the preliminary scrutiny relates received by the DRO:
 - (a) in the case of the first preliminary scrutiny—before the commencement of that scrutiny; and
 - (b) in the case of a subsequent preliminary scrutiny—after the commencement of the last preceding preliminary scrutiny and before the commencement of the subsequent preliminary scrutiny.
2. All written applications for postal votes not already dealt with at a preliminary scrutiny shall be produced at each preliminary scrutiny of postal votes.
3. The DRO shall compare the signature of the elector on each postal vote application with the signature on the relevant postal vote certificate and allow the scrutineers to inspect both signatures.
- 3A. For each postal vote certificate not dealt with under paragraph 3, the DRO must compare the signature of the elector on the postal vote certificate with the signature of the elector on:
 - (a) the elector's application for registration as a general postal voter; or
 - (b) the elector's application for enrolment or transfer of enrolment;and allow the scrutineers to inspect both signatures.
4. The DRO shall divide the envelopes being dealt with into groups, as follows:
 - (a) in one group, the envelopes that meet the requirements of paragraph 6;
 - (b) in another group, the envelopes that do not meet those requirements.
5. The DRO shall, without opening the envelopes, subject to the operation of paragraphs 23 and 24, exclude from further scrutiny the ballot-papers contained in envelopes that do not meet the requirements of paragraph 6.
6. An envelope meets the requirements of this paragraph if the DRO is satisfied:
 - (a) in the case of an envelope purporting to contain a postal ballot-paper, other than an envelope sent under section 186 to a registered general postal voter who was registered on the ground specified in paragraph 184A(2)(e) or (f), that the signature on the certificate is that of the elector and that:
 - (i) the signature purports to be witnessed by an authorised witness; or
 - (ii) the signature is taken to be witnessed by an authorised witness because of subsection 194(1A);

- (b) in the case of an envelope purporting to contain a pre-poll vote ballot-paper, that the certificate has been signed in accordance with section 200E and that the signature purports to be witnessed by the officer who issued the certificate;
 - (c) in the case of an envelope purporting to contain an absent vote ballot-paper or a provisional vote ballot-paper, that the certificate has been signed in accordance with section 222 or 235 or subsection 234(4), as the case requires, and that the signature purports to be witnessed in accordance with that section or subsection, as the case may be;
 - (d) in the case of an envelope purporting to contain a ballot-paper recording a vote cast at a station in Antarctica, the envelope is signed in accordance with subsection 260(1); and
 - (e) in the case of an envelope purporting to contain a postal ballot-paper, that the vote marked on the ballot-paper was recorded prior to the close of the poll.
- 6A. If the DRO is satisfied that more than one envelope that meets the requirements of paragraph 6 purports to contain a declaration vote by the same elector, the DRO must:
- (a) treat only one of the envelopes, as selected by the DRO, as meeting the requirements of paragraph 6; and
 - (b) exclude from further scrutiny the ballot-papers contained in the other envelope or envelopes, without opening the envelope or envelopes; and
 - (c) seal up in a parcel the envelope or envelopes excluded from further scrutiny by subparagraph (b); and
 - (d) write on the parcel a description of its contents, the name of the Division and the date of the commencement of the preliminary scrutiny.
- In applying subparagraph (a), the DRO should, to the extent that it is possible, select the envelope that was received first.
- 6B. Paragraphs 23 and 24 do not apply to envelopes excluded from further scrutiny because of subparagraph 6A(b).
7. Where the envelope purporting to contain a postal ballot-paper bears a postmark that includes a date after polling day, the vote marked on the ballot-paper shall be taken not to have been recorded prior to the close of the poll.
- 7A. A vote marked on a postal ballot-paper must be taken not to have been recorded prior to the close of the poll if:
- (a) in the case of a ballot-paper taken to be witnessed because of subsection 194(1A)—the envelope purporting to contain the ballot-paper does not bear a legible postmark; or
 - (b) in any other case—the envelope purporting to contain the ballot-paper does not bear a legible postmark and the signature of the witness bears a date after polling day.
8. An envelope purporting to contain an absent vote ballot-paper or a provisional vote ballot-paper or a pre-poll vote ballot-paper shall not be regarded as failing to meet the requirements of paragraph 6 only because the declaration or certificate, as the case requires, is not witnessed if the voter's name appears on a record made under

subsection 232(2) or section 200G, as the case requires, or, if neither of those requirements is met, if the DRO is satisfied that the ballot-paper was properly issued.

9. The DRO shall seal up in a parcel the envelopes that do not meet the requirements of paragraph 6 and shall write on the parcel a description of its contents, the name of the Division and the date of commencement of the preliminary scrutiny.
10. If the preliminary scrutiny relates to a Senate election held concurrently with a House of Representatives election or a Senate election held alone, the DRO shall divide the envelopes that meet the requirements of paragraph 6 into groups as follows:
 - (a) in one group, the envelopes bearing certificates or declarations by persons who are enrolled for the Division or whose claims for enrolment are claims to which subsection 102(4A) of the Act applies;
 - (b) in another group the envelopes to which paragraph 11A or 12 applies;
 - (c) in another group, the envelopes bearing certificates or declarations by persons who are not enrolled for the Division but are enrolled for the State or Territory in which the Division is situated;
 - (d) in another group, the envelopes bearing certificates or declarations by persons who are not enrolled for the Division or for the State or Territory in which the Division is situated.
11. If the preliminary scrutiny relates to a House of Representatives election not held concurrently with a Senate election, the DRO shall divide the envelopes that meet the requirements of paragraph 6 into groups as follows:
 - (a) in one group, the envelopes bearing certificates or declarations by persons who are enrolled for the Division or whose claims for enrolment are claims to which subsection 102(4A) of the Act applies;
 - (b) in another group, the envelopes to which paragraph 11A or 12 applies;
 - (c) in another group, the envelopes bearing certificates or declarations by persons who are not enrolled for the Division.
- 11A. This paragraph applies to an envelope if the DRO is satisfied:
 - (a) that the elector who signed the certificate or declaration on the envelope is not enrolled for the Division; and
 - (b) after making enquiry:
 - (i) that the elector was, at the time of voting, entitled to be enrolled for a Subdivision of the Division; and
 - (ii) that, if the Division had not been divided into Subdivisions, the omission of the elector's name from the Roll for the Division would have been due to an error made by an officer, or to a mistake of fact.
- 11B. Subparagraph 11A(b) does not apply if:
 - (a) more than one election (excluding the election to which the scrutiny relates) has been held since the omission from the Roll; or
 - (b) where there has been a redistribution of the State or Territory that includes the Division since the last election but one before the election to which the scrutiny relates, the omission from the Roll was made before the last such redistribution.

12. This paragraph applies to an envelope if the DRO is satisfied:
 - (a) that the elector who signed a certificate or declaration on the envelope is not enrolled for the Division; and
 - (b) after making enquiry:
 - (i) that the elector was, at the time of voting, entitled to be enrolled for the Division; and
 - (ii) that the omission of the elector's name from the Roll for the Division was due to an error made by an officer or to a mistake of fact.
13. Subparagraph 12(b) does not apply if:
 - (a) more than one election (excluding the election to which the scrutiny relates) has been held since the error or mistake was made; or
 - (b) where there has been a redistribution of the State or Territory that includes the Division since the last election but one before the election to which the scrutiny relates, the error or mistake was made before the last such redistribution.
14. In paragraphs 11B and 13, *election* means:
 - (a) a general election for the House of Representatives;
 - (b) a Senate election not held concurrently with a general election for the House of Representatives; or
 - (c) a referendum not held concurrently with a general election.
15. The DRO shall, without opening the envelopes, subject to the operation of paragraphs 23 and 25, exclude from further scrutiny the ballot-papers contained in envelopes referred to in subparagraphs 10(d) and 11(c).
16. The DRO shall seal up in a parcel the envelopes referred to in subparagraphs 10(d) and 11(c) and shall write on the parcel a description of the contents, the name of the Division and the date.
17. The DRO shall, after the close of the poll for the Division, without unfolding or inspecting them or allowing any other person to do so, withdraw the ballot-papers from the envelopes referred to in paragraph 10 or 11 that still remain in the preliminary scrutiny.
18. Ballot-papers withdrawn from envelopes referred to in subparagraph 10(a) or (b) or 11(a) or (b) shall be placed in a ballot-box by themselves for further scrutiny.
19. A ballot-paper for a Senate election withdrawn from an envelope referred to in subparagraph 10(c) shall be placed in the ballot-box referred to in paragraph 18 for further scrutiny. A ballot-paper for a House of Representatives election withdrawn from such an envelope shall be excluded from further scrutiny.
20. The DRO shall seal up in a parcel ballot-papers excluded under paragraph 19 and shall write on the parcel a description of its contents, the name of the Division and the date.

21. Where a ballot-paper has been finally excluded from further scrutiny, other than because of subparagraph 6A(b), the DRO shall send to the voter a written statement of the reason for the rejection.
22. For the purposes of paragraph 17, an envelope that contains a ballot-paper for a referendum shall be dealt with as if it did not contain that ballot-paper.
23. In the course of a preliminary scrutiny of declaration votes, the DRO, as soon as practicable after the ballot-papers that are required, under that scrutiny, to be placed in a ballot-box under paragraph 18 or 19 are so placed, but not before the close of the poll for the Division, must:
 - (a) open the parcel of envelopes that contains the ballot-papers that are, under paragraph 5 and subject to the operation of this paragraph and paragraph 24, excluded from scrutiny, and deal further with those declaration votes in accordance with paragraph 24; and
 - (b) open the parcel of envelopes that contains the ballot-papers that are, under paragraph 15 and subject to the operation of this paragraph and paragraph 25, excluded from scrutiny, and deal further with those declaration votes in accordance with paragraph 25.
24. For the purpose of dealing further with declaration votes referred to in subparagraph 23(a), paragraphs 3 to 22, inclusive, reapply in relation to those votes as if:
 - (a) the words “subject to the operation of paragraphs 23 and 24,” were omitted from paragraph 5; and
 - (b) the words “subject to the operation of paragraphs 23 and 25,” were omitted from paragraph 15.
25. For the purpose of dealing further with declaration votes referred to in subparagraph 23 (b), paragraphs 10 to 22, inclusive, reapply in relation to those votes as if the words “subject to the operation of paragraphs 23 and 25,” were omitted from paragraph 15.

Appendix 3 Votes Counted by Type, Senate Elections 1901-2001

Number

Election	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Total Declaration	Forces	Total Votes
1901								531428
1903								887312
1906	1026794	17032			15342	32374		1059168
1910	1343510	31217			29249	60466		1403976
1913	1834678	198573				198573		2033251
1914	1865683	176653				176653		2042336
1917	1861199	210052				210052	131550	2202801
1919	1844627	151238	4971		15059	171268	17042	2032937
1922	1594344	117055	6298		10549	133902		1728246
1925	2741820	215872	14257		43004	273133		3014953
1928	2923303	241987	12391		46819	301197		3224500
1931	3149285	252127	12583		54308	319018		3468303
1934	3366149	260113	10623		71693	342429		3708578
1937	3562200	279269	7544		72324	359137		3921337
1940	3583140	321315	10469		84798	416582	17081	4016803
1943	3512974	267725	10615		92510	370850	417831	4301655
1946	3957081	334018	8649		117172	459839	37021	4453941
1949	4241755	310127	10504		128603	449234	6811	4697800
1951	4227648	365801	12037		148696	526534	9733	4763915
1953	4257176	418261	7013		119095	544369	9419	4810964
1955	4435500	351336	7539		119719	478594		4914094
1958	4684880	325518	8968		121743	456229		5141109
1961	4928377	326034	6952		122987	455973		5384350
1964	5072654	362507	6945		114874	484326		5556980
1967	5331849	423372	5889		128019	557280		5889129
1970	5602686	466453	7207		137417	611077		6213763
1974	6479893	562530	9178		358910	930618		7410511
1975	7043291	518582	12913		307087	838582		7881873
1977	7245994	584753	10000		287015	881768		8127762
1980	7504645	628046	16656		364645	1009347		8513992
1983	7799116	689112	15534		366413	1071059		8870175
1984	8344859	559687	41815		384804	986306		9331165
1987	8441909	648872	56323		619070	1324265		9767316
1990	8995715	667484	74823		540287	1282594		10278943
1993	9572351	653435	60592	357301	310579	1381907		10954258
1996	9737404	657539	105091	434841	359604	1557075		11294479
1998	9520159	770463	115647	690778	490318	2067206		11587365
2001	10172617	780961	107396	585616	451900	1925873		12098490

Notes: Statistics on Absent and Postal votes are not available for 1901 and 1903 elections.

Postal voting was abolished in 1911 and reinstated in 1918.

Provisional votes (Section votes before 1993) were introduced in 1918.

Pre-poll votes were introduced in 1984, but were not recorded separately from Postal votes until 1993.

For 1987, 1990 and 1993 Total votes include adjustments that cannot be allocated to particular vote types.

Appendix 3 Votes Counted by Type, Senate Elections 1901-2001
Per cent

Election	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Total Declaration	Forces	Total Votes
1901								100.00
1903								100.00
1906	96.94	1.61			1.45	3.06		100.00
1910	95.69	2.22			2.08	4.31		100.00
1913	90.23	9.77				9.77		100.00
1914	91.35	8.65				8.65		100.00
1917	84.49	9.54				9.54	5.97	100.00
1919	90.74	7.44	0.24		0.74	8.42	0.84	100.00
1922	92.25	6.77	0.36		0.61	7.75		100.00
1925	90.94	7.16	0.47		1.43	9.06		100.00
1928	90.66	7.50	0.38		1.45	9.34		100.00
1931	90.80	7.27	0.36		1.57	9.20		100.00
1934	90.77	7.01	0.29		1.93	9.23		100.00
1937	90.84	7.12	0.19		1.84	9.16		100.00
1940	89.20	8.00	0.26		2.11	10.37	0.43	100.00
1943	81.67	6.22	0.25		2.15	8.62	9.71	100.00
1946	88.84	7.50	0.19		2.63	10.32	0.83	100.00
1949	90.29	6.60	0.22		2.74	9.56	0.14	100.00
1951	88.74	7.68	0.25		3.12	11.05	0.20	100.00
1953	88.49	8.69	0.15		2.48	11.32	0.20	100.00
1955	90.26	7.15	0.15		2.44	9.74		100.00
1958	91.13	6.33	0.17		2.37	8.87		100.00
1961	91.53	6.06	0.13		2.28	8.47		100.00
1964	91.28	6.52	0.12		2.07	8.72		100.00
1967	90.54	7.19	0.10		2.17	9.46		100.00
1970	90.17	7.51	0.12		2.21	9.83		100.00
1974	87.44	7.59	0.12		4.84	12.56		100.00
1975	89.36	6.58	0.16		3.90	10.64		100.00
1977	89.15	7.19	0.12		3.53	10.85		100.00
1980	88.14	7.38	0.20		4.28	11.86		100.00
1983	87.93	7.77	0.18		4.13	12.07		100.00
1984	89.43	6.00	0.45		4.12	10.57		100.00
1987	86.43	6.64	0.58		6.34	13.56		100.00
1990	87.52	6.49	0.73		5.26	12.48		100.00
1993	87.38	5.97	0.55	3.26	2.84	12.62		100.00
1996	86.21	5.82	0.93	3.85	3.18	13.79		100.00
1998	82.16	6.65	1.00	5.96	4.23	17.84		100.00
2001	84.08	6.46	0.89	4.84	3.74	15.92		100.00

Notes: Statistics on Absent and Postal votes are not available for 1901 and 1903 elections.

Postal voting was abolished in 1911 and reinstated in 1918.

Provisional votes (Section votes before 1993) were introduced in 1918.

Pre-poll votes were introduced in 1984, but were not recorded separately from Postal votes until 1993.

For 1987, 1990 and 1993 Total votes include adjustments that cannot be allocated to particular vote types.

Appendix 4 Votes Counted by Type, 2001 Senate Election

Number

Division	Region	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Declaration	Total Total Votes
Banks	IM	67479	5500	589	3112	2749	11950	79429
Barton	IM	68453	5412	924	3373	2361	12070	80523
Bennelong	IM	69141	5774	507	3565	3464	13310	82451
Berowra	OM	68120	5737	468	4562	2881	13648	81768
Blaxland	IM	67441	4956	1035	2511	2275	10777	78218
Bradfield	IM	70423	5637	452	4919	3599	14607	85030
Calare	R	69312	4639	819	5171	2198	12827	82139
Charlton	P	66842	5493	666	4361	2728	13248	80090
Chifley	OM	68167	5463	1109	2911	1567	11050	79217
Cook	IM	65466	4942	802	4485	2846	13075	78541
Cowper	R	64360	4419	751	4311	2512	11993	76353
Cunningham	OM	66754	4268	435	3523	2859	11085	77839
Dobell	P	64634	6091	626	4308	2500	13525	78159
Eden-Monaro	R	67971	3100	524	7170	3429	14223	82194
Farrer	R	69780	2182	558	4532	3497	10769	80549
Fowler	OM	68290	4956	895	2001	1532	9384	77674
Gilmore	R	64651	4684	760	7381	2922	15747	80398
Grayndler	IM	66124	7236	1147	3743	1830	13956	80080
Greenway	OM	70054	5955	626	3169	2021	11771	81825
Gwydir	R	66626	6610	640	3625	3133	14008	80634
Hughes	OM	69716	5966	489	3979	2632	13066	82782
Hume	R	68351	5942	554	4463	2919	13878	82229
Hunter	R	68958	4482	774	5561	1796	12613	81571
Kingsford Smith	IM	68535	5572	914	4189	2620	13295	81830
Lindsay	OM	66895	5503	1090	2965	1908	11466	78361
Lowe	IM	67658	5262	708	3349	2879	12198	79856
Lyne	R	70037	5025	895	5169	2308	13397	83434
Macarthur	OM	65373	5111	709	3278	1978	11076	76449
Mackellar	OM	69260	5700	505	4325	2069	12599	81859
Macquarie	OM	69085	6086	510	3907	2738	13241	82326
Mitchell	OM	69876	6189	572	3905	2740	13406	83282
New England	R	67606	4455	896	5828	2733	13912	81518
Newcastle	P	71565	5756	487	3181	3255	12679	84244
North Sydney	IM	66564	6987	763	5174	3456	16380	82944
Page	R	66705	3826	775	4665	2893	12159	78864
Parkes	R	66222	5040	758	4535	2940	13273	79495
Parramatta	IM	67755	6988	929	3358	3719	14994	82749
Paterson	R	66768	4375	628	5289	3139	13431	80199
Prospect	OM	73375	5555	584	1931	1560	9630	83005
Reid	IM	62524	4877	439	2151	2115	9582	72106
Richmond	R	63242	2873	627	6954	3213	13667	76909
Riverina	R	71464	3926	805	5454	2197	12382	83846
Robertson	P	66514	5389	816	4742	3240	14187	80701

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Division	Region	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Total Declaration	Total Votes
Shortland	P	69254	5409	779	4235	2988	13411	82665
Sydney	IM	61391	8529	1394	5354	2274	17551	78942
Throsby	OM	70528	4290	679	2895	2328	10192	80720
Warringah	IM	65961	5712	686	5298	2796	14492	80453
Watson	IM	65567	5641	1019	2496	1946	11102	76669
Wentworth	IM	61745	6338	993	6948	3946	18225	79970
Werriwa	OM	67574	6431	822	2317	1491	11061	78635
Aston	OM	74948	4421	316	3004	4888	12629	87577
Ballarat	P	69280	4436	1028	4509	3777	13750	83030
Batman	IM	72020	5840	800	3226	2527	12393	84413
Bendigo	P	72850	4316	611	3590	3785	12302	85152
Bruce	OM	68955	5339	571	3061	3880	12851	81806
Burke	R	72939	5683	608	3415	2799	12505	85444
Calwell	OM	81518	5631	1123	3591	1977	12322	93840
Casey	OM	69359	5402	609	3535	3082	12628	81987
Chisholm	IM	68566	6130	394	3307	4400	14231	82797
Corangamite	P	68811	5134	661	4526	3842	14163	82974
Corio	P	70320	3693	867	3959	3524	12043	82363
Deakin	OM	68043	5517	460	3333	4206	13516	81559
Dunkley	OM	69009	4221	760	4291	3496	12768	81777
Flinders	R	71182	5022	820	6787	4013	16642	87824
Gellibrand	IM	68934	5036	1024	3425	2478	11963	80897
Gippsland	R	69835	4362	455	3447	2462	10726	80561
Goldstein	IM	71150	5622	576	4082	3978	14258	85408
Higgins	IM	66365	7298	692	4462	3846	16298	82663
Holt	OM	71268	5603	1329	3149	2472	12553	83821
Hotham	OM	71294	5902	785	3325	3750	13762	85056
Indi	R	68379	3843	403	6869	2651	13766	82145
Isaacs	OM	68114	4676	995	2697	3416	11784	79898
Jagajaga	OM	71253	5206	413	3542	4108	13269	84522
Kooyong	IM	68280	6476	583	3782	3754	14595	82875
La Trobe	OM	71230	6035	651	3057	3785	13528	84758
Lalor	OM	73779	4446	755	4956	1944	12101	85880
Mallee	R	67140	3642	431	5024	2478	11575	78715
Maribyrnong	OM	68196	5295	747	3579	1928	11549	79745
McEwen	R	72192	6239	953	2679	4116	13987	86179
McMillan	R	69025	3893	608	6089	2689	13279	82304
Melbourne	IM	69733	9173	1451	5186	2732	18542	88275
Melbourne Ports	IM	63148	6884	1034	5917	5345	19180	82328
Menzies	OM	68723	5155	475	3697	3145	12472	81195
Murray	R	71609	4072	926	3304	2676	10978	82587
Scullin	OM	75571	5240	688	2114	2244	10286	85857
Wannon	R	66542	4300	526	4517	4177	13520	80062
Wills	IM	70345	5983	905	3717	2635	13240	83585

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Division	Region	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Declaration	Total Total Votes
Blair	R	62708	5163	481	1959	3338	10941	73649
Bowman	OM	71350	3900	607	3530	3752	11789	83139
Brisbane	IM	71069	8258	1029	4730	4376	18393	89462
Capricornia	P	63645	5176	639	2750	5419	13984	77629
Dawson	R	70866	4343	833	3987	3171	12334	83200
Dickson	OM	72538	5253	469	3011	3498	12231	84769
Fadden	OM	67719	5656	606	3807	3792	13861	81580
Fairfax	R	66680	4713	770	4037	3507	13027	79707
Fisher	P	66206	4332	892	5612	3895	14731	80937
Forde	R	69600	5566	844	2772	3337	12519	82119
Griffith	OM	72890	6383	686	2980	4683	14732	87622
Groom	P	67834	4804	703	3481	3818	12806	80640
Herbert	P	73734	3750	1122	4655	3204	12731	86465
Hinkler	R	65079	3948	623	4858	3686	13115	78194
Kennedy	R	67462	5322	976	1955	3729	11982	79444
Leichhardt	R	67897	3657	1364	3723	2426	11170	79067
Lilley	IM	68664	5956	743	3187	4694	14580	83244
Longman	R	68214	4480	680	2871	3385	11416	79630
Maranoa	R	62062	6483	727	1937	8268	17415	79477
McPherson	P	72789	3681	1005	8281	3547	16514	89303
Moncrieff	P	68309	4472	971	6431	3695	15569	83878
Moreton	IM	68884	6608	705	3120	4870	15303	84187
Oxley	OM	69870	5127	584	2267	2887	10865	80735
Petrie	OM	70993	5937	532	3131	4952	14552	85545
Rankin	OM	67761	5517	714	2891	3252	12374	80135
Ryan	OM	70590	5624	507	3992	3594	13717	84307
Wide Bay	R	63427	4924	517	3423	5172	14036	77463
Brand	OM	62511	5062	925	4594	1850	12431	74942
Canning	OM	61882	6540	698	2301	1921	11460	73342
Cowan	OM	65662	6274	530	2405	1803	11012	76674
Curtin	IM	65838	5570	698	3810	2920	12998	78836
Forrest	R	68199	4847	707	3089	2041	10684	78883
Fremantle	IM	66229	5708	531	2857	1825	10921	77150
Hasluck	OM	63623	6209	688	2587	2106	11590	75213
Kalgoorlie	R	59793	5681	321	3679	2444	12125	71918
Moore	OM	60300	5615	398	2771	1973	10757	71057
O'Connor	R	66778	8183	686	2136	1744	12749	79527
Pearce	R	61917	7496	597	2369	2071	12533	74450
Perth	IM	65311	7336	680	2516	2386	12918	78229
Stirling	IM	67816	7568	775	3018	2794	14155	81971
Swan	IM	62181	6554	712	2960	2475	12701	74882
Tangney	IM	67538	5989	464	3366	2123	11942	79480
Adelaide	IM	68543	6020	841	3187	3732	13780	82323

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Division	Region	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Declaration	Total Total Votes
Barker	R	73658	4305	867	2855	3071	11098	84756
Bonython	OM	72060	5156	723	2076	2004	9959	82019
Boothby	OM	73893	5300	556	3496	3057	12409	86302
Grey	R	69866	4679	642	3061	3156	11538	81404
Hindmarsh	IM	68729	5512	651	2843	3683	12689	81418
Kingston	OM	70805	5028	724	3114	2615	11481	82286
Makin	OM	73883	5395	703	2499	2854	11451	85334
Mayo	R	71602	5821	560	2543	2675	11599	83201
Port Adelaide	IM	71063	4923	824	2498	3097	11342	82405
Sturt	IM	69762	5677	615	3238	3382	12912	82674
Wakefield	R	73411	5215	602	1915	2306	10038	83449
Bass	P	54856	2478	865	2595	2623	8561	63417
Braddon	R	57867	2194	624	2592	2100	7510	65377
Denison	IM	55211	3190	715	2924	2982	9811	65022
Franklin	OM	55755	3629	572	2152	2569	8922	64677
Lyons	R	52159	3904	431	1580	2588	8503	60662
Canberra	IM	82900	2819	648	14972	2658	21097	103997
Fraser	IM	84435	2515	773	15381	3297	21966	106401
Lingiari	R	39402	1187	470	3781	1200	6638	46040
Solomon	IM	42278	894	286	5100	1104	7384	49662
New South Wales		3376156	266289	36932	210628	131719	645568	4021724
Victoria		2599905	195166	27033	146750	123005	491954	3091859
Queensland		1848840	139033	20329	99378	107947	366687	2215527
Western Australia		965578	94632	9410	44458	32476	180976	1146554
South Australia		857275	63031	8308	33325	35632	140296	997571
Tasmania		275848	15395	3207	11843	12862	43307	319155
Australian Capital Territory		167335	5334	1421	30353	5955	43063	210398
Northern Territory		81680	2081	756	8881	2304	14022	95702
Australia		10172617	780961	107396	585616	451900	1925873	12098490
Region:								
Inner Metropolitan		2827219	244902	32450	180836	128968	587156	3414375
Outer Metropolitan		3258412	252904	31392	150203	131787	566286	3824698
Provincial		1087443	74410	12738	71216	55840	214204	1301647
Rural		2999543	208745	30816	183361	135305	558227	3557770

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Division	Region	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Total Declaration	Total Votes
Banks	IM	84.96	6.92	0.74	3.92	3.46	15.04	100.00
Barton	IM	85.01	6.72	1.15	4.19	2.93	14.99	100.00
Bennelong	IM	83.86	7.00	0.61	4.32	4.20	16.14	100.00
Berowra	OM	83.31	7.02	0.57	5.58	3.52	16.69	100.00
Blaxland	IM	86.22	6.34	1.32	3.21	2.91	13.78	100.00
Bradfield	IM	82.82	6.63	0.53	5.79	4.23	17.18	100.00
Calare	R	84.38	5.65	1.00	6.30	2.68	15.62	100.00
Charlton	P	83.46	6.86	0.83	5.45	3.41	16.54	100.00
Chifley	OM	86.05	6.90	1.40	3.67	1.98	13.95	100.00
Cook	IM	83.35	6.29	1.02	5.71	3.62	16.65	100.00
Cowper	R	84.29	5.79	0.98	5.65	3.29	15.71	100.00
Cunningham	OM	85.76	5.48	0.56	4.53	3.67	14.24	100.00
Dobell	P	82.70	7.79	0.80	5.51	3.20	17.30	100.00
Eden-Monaro	R	82.70	3.77	0.64	8.72	4.17	17.30	100.00
Farrer	R	86.63	2.71	0.69	5.63	4.34	13.37	100.00
Fowler	OM	87.92	6.38	1.15	2.58	1.97	12.08	100.00
Gilmore	R	80.41	5.83	0.95	9.18	3.63	19.59	100.00
Grayndler	IM	82.57	9.04	1.43	4.67	2.29	17.43	100.00
Greenway	OM	85.61	7.28	0.77	3.87	2.47	14.39	100.00
Gwydir	R	82.63	8.20	0.79	4.50	3.89	17.37	100.00
Hughes	OM	84.22	7.21	0.59	4.81	3.18	15.78	100.00
Hume	R	83.12	7.23	0.67	5.43	3.55	16.88	100.00
Hunter	R	84.54	5.49	0.95	6.82	2.20	15.46	100.00
Kingsford Smith	IM	83.75	6.81	1.12	5.12	3.20	16.25	100.00
Lindsay	OM	85.37	7.02	1.39	3.78	2.43	14.63	100.00
Lowe	IM	84.73	6.59	0.89	4.19	3.61	15.27	100.00
Lyne	R	83.94	6.02	1.07	6.20	2.77	16.06	100.00
Macarthur	OM	85.51	6.69	0.93	4.29	2.59	14.49	100.00
Mackellar	OM	84.61	6.96	0.62	5.28	2.53	15.39	100.00
Macquarie	OM	83.92	7.39	0.62	4.75	3.33	16.08	100.00
Mitchell	OM	83.90	7.43	0.69	4.69	3.29	16.10	100.00
New England	R	82.93	5.47	1.10	7.15	3.35	17.07	100.00
Newcastle	P	84.95	6.83	0.58	3.78	3.86	15.05	100.00
North Sydney	IM	80.25	8.42	0.92	6.24	4.17	19.75	100.00
Page	R	84.58	4.85	0.98	5.92	3.67	15.42	100.00
Parkes	R	83.30	6.34	0.95	5.70	3.70	16.70	100.00
Parramatta	IM	81.88	8.44	1.12	4.06	4.49	18.12	100.00
Paterson	R	83.25	5.46	0.78	6.59	3.91	16.75	100.00
Prospect	OM	88.40	6.69	0.70	2.33	1.88	11.60	100.00
Reid	IM	86.71	6.76	0.61	2.98	2.93	13.29	100.00
Richmond	R	82.23	3.74	0.82	9.04	4.18	17.77	100.00
Riverina	R	85.23	4.68	0.96	6.50	2.62	14.77	100.00
Robertson	P	82.42	6.68	1.01	5.88	4.01	17.58	100.00
Shortland	P	83.78	6.54	0.94	5.12	3.61	16.22	100.00
Sydney	IM	77.77	10.80	1.77	6.78	2.88	22.23	100.00

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Division	Region	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Declaration	Total	Total
Throsby	OM	87.37	5.31	0.84	3.59	2.88	12.63	100.00	
Warringah	IM	81.99	7.10	0.85	6.59	3.48	18.01	100.00	
Watson	IM	85.52	7.36	1.33	3.26	2.54	14.48	100.00	
Wentworth	IM	77.21	7.93	1.24	8.69	4.93	22.79	100.00	
Werriwa	OM	85.93	8.18	1.05	2.95	1.90	14.07	100.00	
Aston	OM	85.58	5.05	0.36	3.43	5.58	14.42	100.00	
Ballarat	P	83.44	5.34	1.24	5.43	4.55	16.56	100.00	
Batman	IM	85.32	6.92	0.95	3.82	2.99	14.68	100.00	
Bendigo	P	85.55	5.07	0.72	4.22	4.44	14.45	100.00	
Bruce	OM	84.29	6.53	0.70	3.74	4.74	15.71	100.00	
Burke	R	85.36	6.65	0.71	4.00	3.28	14.64	100.00	
Calwell	OM	86.87	6.00	1.20	3.83	2.11	13.13	100.00	
Casey	OM	84.60	6.59	0.74	4.31	3.76	15.40	100.00	
Chisholm	IM	82.81	7.40	0.48	3.99	5.31	17.19	100.00	
Corangamite	P	82.93	6.19	0.80	5.45	4.63	17.07	100.00	
Corio	P	85.38	4.48	1.05	4.81	4.28	14.62	100.00	
Deakin	OM	83.43	6.76	0.56	4.09	5.16	16.57	100.00	
Dunkley	OM	84.39	5.16	0.93	5.25	4.28	15.61	100.00	
Flinders	R	81.05	5.72	0.93	7.73	4.57	18.95	100.00	
Gellibrand	IM	85.21	6.23	1.27	4.23	3.06	14.79	100.00	
Gippsland	R	86.69	5.41	0.56	4.28	3.06	13.31	100.00	
Goldstein	IM	83.31	6.58	0.67	4.78	4.66	16.69	100.00	
Higgins	IM	80.28	8.83	0.84	5.40	4.65	19.72	100.00	
Holt	OM	85.02	6.68	1.59	3.76	2.95	14.98	100.00	
Hotham	OM	83.82	6.94	0.92	3.91	4.41	16.18	100.00	
Indi	R	83.24	4.68	0.49	8.36	3.23	16.76	100.00	
Isaacs	OM	85.25	5.85	1.25	3.38	4.28	14.75	100.00	
Jagajaga	OM	84.30	6.16	0.49	4.19	4.86	15.70	100.00	
Kooyong	IM	82.39	7.81	0.70	4.56	4.53	17.61	100.00	
La Trobe	OM	84.04	7.12	0.77	3.61	4.47	15.96	100.00	
Lalor	OM	85.91	5.18	0.88	5.77	2.26	14.09	100.00	
Mallee	R	85.30	4.63	0.55	6.38	3.15	14.70	100.00	
Maribyrnong	OM	85.52	6.64	0.94	4.49	2.42	14.48	100.00	
McEwen	R	83.77	7.24	1.11	3.11	4.78	16.23	100.00	
McMillan	R	83.87	4.73	0.74	7.40	3.27	16.13	100.00	
Melbourne	IM	79.00	10.39	1.64	5.87	3.09	21.00	100.00	
Melbourne Ports	IM	76.70	8.36	1.26	7.19	6.49	23.30	100.00	
Menzies	OM	84.64	6.35	0.59	4.55	3.87	15.36	100.00	
Murray	R	86.71	4.93	1.12	4.00	3.24	13.29	100.00	
Scullin	OM	88.02	6.10	0.80	2.46	2.61	11.98	100.00	
Wannon	R	83.11	5.37	0.66	5.64	5.22	16.89	100.00	
Wills	IM	84.16	7.16	1.08	4.45	3.15	15.84	100.00	
Blair	R	85.14	7.01	0.65	2.66	4.53	14.86	100.00	
Bowman	OM	85.82	4.69	0.73	4.25	4.51	14.18	100.00	

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Division	Region	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Declaration	Total	Total
Brisbane	IM	79.44	9.23	1.15	5.29	4.89	20.56	100.00	
Capricornia	P	81.99	6.67	0.82	3.54	6.98	18.01	100.00	
Dawson	R	85.18	5.22	1.00	4.79	3.81	14.82	100.00	
Dickson	OM	85.57	6.20	0.55	3.55	4.13	14.43	100.00	
Fadden	OM	83.01	6.93	0.74	4.67	4.65	16.99	100.00	
Fairfax	R	83.66	5.91	0.97	5.06	4.40	16.34	100.00	
Fisher	P	81.80	5.35	1.10	6.93	4.81	18.20	100.00	
Forde	R	84.76	6.78	1.03	3.38	4.06	15.24	100.00	
Griffith	OM	83.19	7.28	0.78	3.40	5.34	16.81	100.00	
Groom	P	84.12	5.96	0.87	4.32	4.73	15.88	100.00	
Herbert	P	85.28	4.34	1.30	5.38	3.71	14.72	100.00	
Hinkler	R	83.23	5.05	0.80	6.21	4.71	16.77	100.00	
Kennedy	R	84.92	6.70	1.23	2.46	4.69	15.08	100.00	
Leichhardt	R	85.87	4.63	1.73	4.71	3.07	14.13	100.00	
Lilley	IM	82.49	7.15	0.89	3.83	5.64	17.51	100.00	
Longman	R	85.66	5.63	0.85	3.61	4.25	14.34	100.00	
Maranoa	R	78.09	8.16	0.91	2.44	10.40	21.91	100.00	
McPherson	P	81.51	4.12	1.13	9.27	3.97	18.49	100.00	
Moncrieff	P	81.44	5.33	1.16	7.67	4.41	18.56	100.00	
Moreton	IM	81.82	7.85	0.84	3.71	5.78	18.18	100.00	
Oxley	OM	86.54	6.35	0.72	2.81	3.58	13.46	100.00	
Petrie	OM	82.99	6.94	0.62	3.66	5.79	17.01	100.00	
Rankin	OM	84.56	6.88	0.89	3.61	4.06	15.44	100.00	
Ryan	OM	83.73	6.67	0.60	4.74	4.26	16.27	100.00	
Wide Bay	R	81.88	6.36	0.67	4.42	6.68	18.12	100.00	
Brand	OM	83.41	6.75	1.23	6.13	2.47	16.59	100.00	
Canning	OM	84.37	8.92	0.95	3.14	2.62	15.63	100.00	
Cowan	OM	85.64	8.18	0.69	3.14	2.35	14.36	100.00	
Curtin	IM	83.51	7.07	0.89	4.83	3.70	16.49	100.00	
Forrest	R	86.46	6.14	0.90	3.92	2.59	13.54	100.00	
Fremantle	IM	85.84	7.40	0.69	3.70	2.37	14.16	100.00	
Hasluck	OM	84.59	8.26	0.91	3.44	2.80	15.41	100.00	
Kalgoorlie	R	83.14	7.90	0.45	5.12	3.40	16.86	100.00	
Moore	OM	84.86	7.90	0.56	3.90	2.78	15.14	100.00	
O'Connor	R	83.97	10.29	0.86	2.69	2.19	16.03	100.00	
Pearce	R	83.17	10.07	0.80	3.18	2.78	16.83	100.00	
Perth	IM	83.49	9.38	0.87	3.22	3.05	16.51	100.00	
Stirling	IM	82.73	9.23	0.95	3.68	3.41	17.27	100.00	
Swan	IM	83.04	8.75	0.95	3.95	3.31	16.96	100.00	
Tangney	IM	84.97	7.54	0.58	4.24	2.67	15.03	100.00	
Adelaide	IM	83.26	7.31	1.02	3.87	4.53	16.74	100.00	
Barker	R	86.91	5.08	1.02	3.37	3.62	13.09	100.00	
Bonython	OM	87.86	6.29	0.88	2.53	2.44	12.14	100.00	
Boothby	OM	85.62	6.14	0.64	4.05	3.54	14.38	100.00	

Appendix 4 Votes Counted by Type, 2001 Senate Election

Per cent

Division	Region	Ordinary	Absent	Provisional	Pre-poll	Postal	Declaration	Total	Total
								Votes	Votes
Grey	R	85.83	5.75	0.79	3.76	3.88	14.17	100.00	
Hindmarsh	IM	84.41	6.77	0.80	3.49	4.52	15.59	100.00	
Kingston	OM	86.05	6.11	0.88	3.78	3.18	13.95	100.00	
Makin	OM	86.58	6.32	0.82	2.93	3.34	13.42	100.00	
Mayo	R	86.06	7.00	0.67	3.06	3.22	13.94	100.00	
Port Adelaide	IM	86.24	5.97	1.00	3.03	3.76	13.76	100.00	
Sturt	IM	84.38	6.87	0.74	3.92	4.09	15.62	100.00	
Wakefield	R	87.97	6.25	0.72	2.29	2.76	12.03	100.00	
Bass	P	86.50	3.91	1.36	4.09	4.14	13.50	100.00	
Braddon	R	88.51	3.36	0.95	3.96	3.21	11.49	100.00	
Denison	IM	84.91	4.91	1.10	4.50	4.59	15.09	100.00	
Franklin	OM	86.21	5.61	0.88	3.33	3.97	13.79	100.00	
Lyons	R	85.98	6.44	0.71	2.60	4.27	14.02	100.00	
Canberra	IM	79.71	2.71	0.62	14.40	2.56	20.29	100.00	
Fraser	IM	79.36	2.36	0.73	14.46	3.10	20.64	100.00	
Lingiari	R	85.58	2.58	1.02	8.21	2.61	14.42	100.00	
Solomon	IM	85.13	1.80	0.58	10.27	2.22	14.87	100.00	
New South Wales		83.95	6.62	0.92	5.24	3.28	16.05	100.00	
Victoria		84.09	6.31	0.87	4.75	3.98	15.91	100.00	
Queensland		83.45	6.28	0.92	4.49	4.87	16.55	100.00	
Western Australia		84.22	8.25	0.82	3.88	2.83	15.78	100.00	
South Australia		85.94	6.32	0.83	3.34	3.57	14.06	100.00	
Tasmania		86.43	4.82	1.00	3.71	4.03	13.57	100.00	
Australian Capital Territory		79.53	2.54	0.68	14.43	2.83	20.47	100.00	
Northern Territory		85.35	2.17	0.79	9.28	2.41	14.65	100.00	
Australia		84.08	6.46	0.89	4.84	3.74	15.92	100.00	
Region:									
Inner Metropolitan		82.80	7.17	0.95	5.30	3.78	17.20	100.00	
Outer Metropolitan		85.19	6.61	0.82	3.93	3.45	14.81	100.00	
Provincial		83.54	5.72	0.98	5.47	4.29	16.46	100.00	
Rural		84.31	5.87	0.87	5.15	3.80	15.69	100.00	

Appendix 5 Registered General Postal Voters, 2001 Election

Division	General Postal Voters	Certified List	GPV as % of Certified List
Banks	1479	82785	1.79
Barton	997	84332	1.18
Bennelong	850	86668	0.98
Berowra	682	85476	0.80
Blaxland	1403	82261	1.71
Bradfield	745	89608	0.83
Calare	869	84596	1.03
Charlton	686	83100	0.83
Chifley	652	82843	0.79
Cook	1076	81487	1.32
Cowper	717	79363	0.90
Cunningham	1085	81207	1.34
Dobell	611	81467	0.75
Eden-Monaro	471	85385	0.55
Farrer	794	84017	0.95
Fowler	665	82358	0.81
Gilmore	455	83206	0.55
Grayndler	836	85619	0.98
Greenway	763	85545	0.89
Gwydir	1212	84188	1.44
Hughes	599	85400	0.70
Hume	564	85264	0.66
Hunter	794	84103	0.94
Kingsford Smith	1150	86036	1.34
Lindsay	638	80723	0.79
Lowe	993	83298	1.19
Lyne	885	86126	1.03
Macarthur	655	79645	0.82
Mackellar	868	86222	1.01
Macquarie	745	86077	0.87
Mitchell	522	86373	0.60
New England	766	84049	0.91
Newcastle	1519	88880	1.71
North Sydney	792	88388	0.90
Page	684	81721	0.84
Parkes	874	82601	1.06
Parramatta	1290	86861	1.49
Paterson	688	82260	0.84
Prospect	524	86325	0.61
Reid	960	76839	1.25
Richmond	598	80803	0.74
Riverina	672	86890	0.77
Robertson	1100	83748	1.31
Shortland	1604	85789	1.87
Sydney	528	85267	0.62

**Appendix 5 Registered General Postal Voters, 2001
Election**

Division	General Postal Voters	Certified List	GPV as % of Certified List
Throsby	974	83933	1.16
Warringah	906	84987	1.07
Watson	787	81627	0.96
Wentworth	1221	85928	1.42
Werriwa	504	82709	0.61
Aston	499	89991	0.55
Ballarat	430	84940	0.51
Batman	986	89709	1.10
Bendigo	752	87712	0.86
Bruce	459	85173	0.54
Burke	342	88563	0.39
Calwell	653	97789	0.67
Casey	472	84889	0.56
Chisholm	607	86523	0.70
Corangamite	1288	85477	1.51
Corio	1375	85187	1.61
Deakin	585	84978	0.69
Dunkley	571	84516	0.68
Flinders	724	90825	0.80
Gellibrand	1081	86062	1.26
Gippsland	480	83559	0.57
Goldstein	623	89779	0.69
Higgins	693	87701	0.79
Holt	511	87523	0.58
Hotham	648	88826	0.73
Indi	702	85514	0.82
Isaacs	502	81815	0.61
Jagajaga	804	87833	0.92
Kooyong	544	86863	0.63
La Trobe	390	87931	0.44
Lalor	511	88834	0.58
Mallee	571	81404	0.70
Maribyrnong	526	83544	0.63
McEwen	349	88228	0.40
McMillan	445	85099	0.52
Melbourne	535	95209	0.56
Melbourne Ports	1653	88498	1.87
Menzies	458	84353	0.54
Murray	286	84805	0.34
Scullin	248	88489	0.28
Wannon	1847	82375	2.24
Wills	1500	88230	1.70
Blair	377	76443	0.49
Bowman	313	86623	0.36
Brisbane	750	95084	0.79

**Appendix 5 Registered General Postal Voters, 2001
Election**

Division	General Postal Voters	Certified List	GPV as % of Certified List
Capricornia	1318	80917	1.63
Dawson	258	86647	0.30
Dickson	402	87661	0.46
Fadden	437	85513	0.51
Fairfax	434	83502	0.52
Fisher	405	84515	0.48
Forde	439	86061	0.51
Griffith	453	91837	0.49
Groom	532	84138	0.63
Herbert	306	89827	0.34
Hinkler	558	80996	0.69
Kennedy	2248	83943	2.68
Leichhardt	515	84470	0.61
Lilley	527	87181	0.60
Longman	547	82853	0.66
Maranoa	5839	83356	7.00
McPherson	472	93670	0.50
Moncrieff	497	88615	0.56
Moreton	445	88587	0.50
Oxley	544	84356	0.64
Petrie	770	89329	0.86
Rankin	467	84814	0.55
Ryan	463	87648	0.53
Wide Bay	1547	80895	1.91
Brand	495	77732	0.64
Canning	551	76194	0.72
Cowan	509	79362	0.64
Curtin	638	82046	0.78
Forrest	305	81673	0.37
Fremantle	663	80522	0.82
Hasluck	701	77976	0.90
Kalgoorlie	1495	82498	1.81
Moore	611	73764	0.83
O'Connor	502	82614	0.61
Pearce	699	77583	0.90
Perth	680	81705	0.83
Stirling	811	85538	0.95
Swan	759	78534	0.97
Tangney	527	82697	0.64
Adelaide	586	86141	0.68
Barker	910	87209	1.04
Bonython	549	84994	0.65
Boothby	467	89366	0.52
Grey	806	85429	0.94
Hindmarsh	375	84518	0.44

**Appendix 5 Registered General Postal Voters, 2001
Election**

Division	General Postal Voters	Certified List	GPV as % of Certified List
Kingston	443	84896	0.52
Makin	479	87823	0.55
Mayo	406	86021	0.47
Port Adelaide	438	85894	0.51
Sturt	544	86050	0.63
Wakefield	424	86036	0.49
Bass	427	65147	0.66
Braddon	110	67180	0.16
Denison	199	67278	0.30
Franklin	155	66625	0.23
Lyons	199	62599	0.32
Canberra	598	108329	0.55
Fraser	757	111547	0.68
Lingiari	793	56796	1.40
Solomon	241	53705	0.45
New South Wales	42452	4204383	1.01
Victoria	25650	3218746	0.80
Queensland	21863	2319481	0.94
Western Australia	9946	1200438	0.83
South Australia	6427	1034377	0.62
Tasmania	1090	328829	0.33
Australian Capital Territory	1355	219876	0.62
Northern Territory	1034	110501	0.94
Australia	109817	12636631	0.87
Regions:			
Inner Metropolitan	33773	3595921	0.94
Outer Metropolitan	13322	1353129	0.98
Provincial	26522	3977833	0.67
Rural	36200	3709748	0.98

Other Publications in this Series

Paper	Date
Research Report 1 – Informal Vote Survey House of Representatives 2001	2003
Research Report 2 – Redistribution Forward Estimates 1984-1999	Dec 2003