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Note on the Queensland Senate election – 1998

At the declaration of the Queensland Senate election, Heather Hill (Pauline Hanson's One Nation) was elected to one of the six vacancies. Following a petition in the Court of Disputed Returns, Ms Hill was declared ineligible to stand under section 44 of the Constitution and a recount was ordered. At this recount, Mr Len Harris (Pauline Hanson's One Nation) obtained a quota and the Court subsequently declared him elected in place of Ms Hill. The other five candidates originally elected were also declared re-elected following this recount.

In general, the tables in this CD-ROM reflect the result of the count before the Court found Ms Hill ineligible to stand. However, the table 'Result of the transfer and distribution of preferences' has been produced to provide the result before and after the recount.

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Note on the Newcastle supplementary election – 21 November 1998

A supplementary election was held for the House of Representatives election in the Division of Newcastle on 21 November 1998 following the death of a candidate nominated to stand in the 1998 election in that division.

The results from this election have been incorporated into these statistics including the state and national summary tables.

A two party preferred (TPP) result could not be calculated for Newcastle as there was no Liberal or National party candidate standing for election. Therefore Newcastle is not included in any tables showing TPP results. However the two candidate preferred (TCP) result was obtained following the distribution of preferences and is available in the relevant First Preferences/TCP tables.

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Notes regarding Divisions of Oxley and Lindsay – 1996 election

Division of Oxley

Pauline Hanson was originally endorsed as the Liberal Party candidate for the Division of Oxley at the 1996 federal election. However, she was 'disendorsed' by the party after nominations had closed but prior to polling day.

Prior to her 'disendorsement', Ms Hanson's nomination was accepted and ballot papers were printed identifying her as a Liberal Party candidate.

Ms Hanson sat in the 38th Parliament as an Independent Member and we have endeavoured to identify her as such in this publication. In some cases, however, this has not been possible and in these instances Ms Hanson's first preference votes have been included under the Liberal Party column. All two party preferred statistics include Ms Hanson's votes as Liberal Party figures.

Division of Lindsay

On 11 September 1996 the Court of Disputed Returns ruled that the election in the Division of Lindsay was void. A by-election was held on 19 October 1996 which was won by the Liberal Party candidate Jackie Kelly. The results published on this CD-ROM are those from the election on 2 March 1996.

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Note on the Dickson supplementary election – 17 April 1993

A supplementary election was held for the House of Representatives election in the Division of Dickson on 17 April 1993 following the death of a candidate nominated to stand in the 1993 election in that division.

The results from this election have been incorporated into these statistics including the state and national summary tables.

Candidates and political parties

On this CD-ROM the names of candidates appear in the same form and order as on the ballot paper. The party affiliation of each candidate is indicated by the political party code. A list of the codes used for each party is shown in the table named **Registered parties and codes**.

A small number of candidates had no party affiliation listed on the ballot paper. These are candidates who were not endorsed by a political party registered with the Australian Electoral Commission and who also did not request to be identified as 'Independent'.

In the Senate, most candidates are 'grouped' on the ballot paper. Each group of candidates appears on the ballot paper in a unique column and is identified by a single letter; with the group in the left-hand column on the ballot paper being group 'A', the second left-hand column is group 'B', and so on. Groups may be made up of candidates endorsed by one or more registered political parties – for example, the Liberal and National Parties have a 'joint ticket' in New South Wales and Victoria. A group may also be made up of candidates who have not been endorsed by a registered political party and, therefore, no party affiliation is shown for these groups on the ballot paper.

Incumbent Senators can appear on the ballot paper in the same manner as grouped candidates, that is, in a column on their own. With this exception, only grouped candidates can appear in separate columns.

Each group, whether endorsed by a registered party or not, or an incumbent Senator, is entitled to have a box 'above the line' on the ballot paper as long as they lodge a group ticket vote within 24 hours of the public declaration of nominations.

Apart from incumbent Senators, all candidates who are not grouped are included in one or more columns on the right-hand side of the ballot paper. Ungrouped candidates can have a registered party affiliation shown next to their names, or the word 'Independent', or no affiliation may be shown. Ungrouped candidates do not have an entitlement to have a box 'above the line' on the ballot paper.

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Enrolment

The enrolment figures shown in this CD-ROM for each event are the number of electors eligible to vote on the relevant polling day.

These figures comprise enrolment at the close of rolls for the event with subsequent amendments such as the death of an elector prior to polling day, a provisionally enrolled elector turning 18 by polling day, or the reinstatement of an eligible elector previously removed from the roll.

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Types of votes

There are five methods of casting a vote:

Ordinary vote

A vote cast in the elector's enrolled division on polling day at a polling place.

Absent vote

A vote cast by an elector outside their enrolled division but still within their home state or territory on polling day at a polling place.

Pre-poll or postal vote

A vote cast before polling day at a pre-poll voting centre or by post. These votes can be cast by electors who will not be within their state or territory on polling day, are seriously ill, infirm, unable to leave work, or for religious reasons are unable to attend a polling place on polling day. Electors who are not within their state or territory can have a pre-poll vote on polling day at a pre-poll voting centre.

Provisional vote

A vote cast in circumstances where an elector's name cannot be found on the roll but the elector claims the right to vote; or the name has already been marked off the roll but the elector claims to have not voted before in the election. The vote cannot be counted until a careful check of records and entitlements has been made.

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Mobile polling

Electors in many hospitals and similar institutions, some prisons, and in remote areas, can cast their vote when visited by a mobile polling team. Mobile polling is carried out in the 12 days up to and including polling day.

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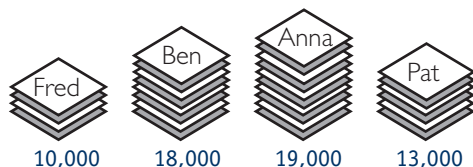
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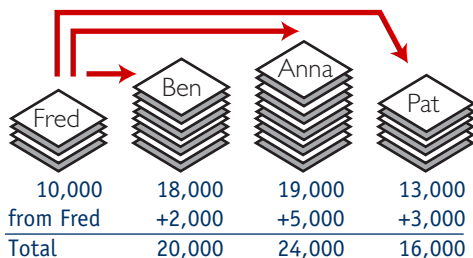
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Counting the votes for the House of Representatives

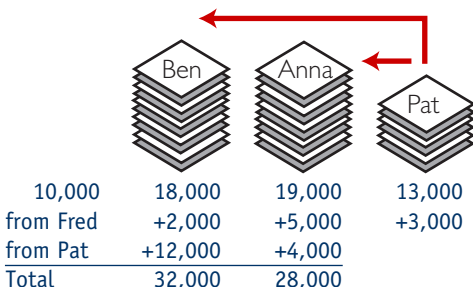
House of Representatives elections are conducted on the basis of single-member constituencies. To be elected, a candidate must obtain an absolute majority (that is, 50 per cent plus 1 vote) of the formal votes cast in the division for which he or she is standing.



First, all of the number '1' votes are counted for each candidate. If a candidate gets more than half the total formal first preference votes, that candidate will be elected.



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



If still no candidate has more than half the votes (excluding those exhausted), the candidate who now has the fewest votes is excluded and the votes are transferred to the remaining candidates according to the next preference shown. This process continues until one candidate has more than half the formal votes remaining in the count and is declared elected.

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Two party preferred (TPP) result

A distribution of preferences takes place in every division, even where a candidate already has an absolute majority of first preference votes. The result of this full distribution of preferences is used to calculate the TPP statistics for divisions that have ALP and Coalition as the final two candidates. In divisions that do not have the ALP and Coalition as the final two candidates, a Scrutiny for Information is conducted to determine the TPP result. A Scrutiny for Information in such cases is a notional distribution of preferences to find the result of preference flows to the ALP and Coalition candidates.

A Scrutiny for Information was conducted in the following divisions in order to obtain a two party preferred result:

1993 North Sydney (NSW) and Wills (VIC)

1996 Calare (NSW), Murray (VIC), Wills (VIC), Curtin (WA), Kalgoorlie (WA) and Moore (WA)

1998 Calare (NSW), Blair (QLD) and Mayo (SA).

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Counting the votes for the Senate

The Senate count is more complicated than a count for the House of Representatives. Counting of first preferences begins on election night but the full count cannot be completed until several weeks after the election.

Working out the quota

To be elected to the Senate, a candidate needs to gain a quota of the formal votes. The quota is calculated by dividing the total number of formal ballot papers by one more than the number of Senators to be elected, and adding '1' to the result (ignoring any remainder).

This is how the quota for New South Wales was calculated at the 1998 Senate election:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Number of Senators to be elected} = 6 & \text{Quota} = \frac{3\,755\,725}{(6 + 1)} + 1 \\ \text{Number of formal votes} = 3\,755\,725 & \\ & = 536\,533 \end{array}$$

Counting the first preference votes

This is done as for a House of Representatives election; the papers are sorted according to which candidate has received the number '1' preference on each ballot paper. Candidates who receive a quota, or more, of these first preference votes are elected immediately.

As a general rule when a candidate is elected with a surplus of votes, that surplus is transferred before any exclusions are undertaken.

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Counting the votes for the Senate

Transferring the surplus

Any surplus votes these elected candidates receive (that is, votes in excess of the quota they needed) are transferred to the candidates who were the second choice of voters. Because it is not possible to determine which votes actually elected the candidate and which votes are surplus all the elected candidate's ballot papers are transferred at a reduced value.

Using the New South Wales results again, candidate Steve Hutchins (ALP) gained 1 446 231 votes. As the quota was 536 533, his surplus was 909 698. The transfer value was therefore:

$$\frac{909\,698}{1\,446\,231} = 0.62901293$$

Hutchins' ballot papers (1 446 231) were then re-examined in order to determine the number of votes for second-choice candidates. Hutchins' ballot papers gave 1 444 433 second preferences to John Faulkner (ALP). Faulkner therefore received $1\,444\,433 \times 0.62901293 = 908\,567$ votes which were added to the 2 914 votes that he had received in count one.

He was then over the quota and was elected. Faulkner's surplus votes were then transferred in the same manner.

As a result of this process of transferring surplus votes, other candidates may be elected. If, however, all surplus votes from elected candidates are transferred and there are still some unfilled positions, further counting is undertaken.

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Counting the votes for the Senate

Exclusion of unsuccessful candidates

Starting with the candidate who has the lowest number of votes, unelected candidates are excluded from the count and their ballot papers are distributed to the remaining candidates to whom the voters have given their preferences. If any of the remaining candidates obtains a quota through this process of distribution, he or she is declared elected. Their surplus (if any) is transferred before any other candidates are excluded.

The above processes continue until all Senate positions are filled.

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Redistribution – changes to boundaries (1993 to 1998)

If you are undertaking any comparison of results across events you will need to take into account the effects of redistributions of electoral boundaries undertaken between events. A summary of those redistributions is outlined below.

Further information on the redistribution process is available on the AEC's website – www.aec.gov.au

Boundary changes which took effect at the 1996 election

The 1994 redistributions changed electoral boundaries in Victoria, Queensland, and the Australian Capital Territory. These changes took effect at the 1996 election.

The redistributions in Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory were caused by changes to the representation entitlements which saw Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory gain one seat each and Victoria lose a seat.

The new seat in Queensland was named Longman.

The new seat in the Australian Capital Territory was named Namadgi.

The seat abolished in Victoria was Corinella.

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Redistribution – changes to boundaries (1993 to 1998)

Boundary changes which took effect at the 1998 election

The 1997 redistributions changed electoral boundaries in Western Australia, Queensland, and the Australian Capital Territory. These changes took effect at the 1998 election.

The redrawing, or redistribution, of electoral boundaries occurred in Western Australia under the 'seven-year' rule which requires a redistribution in a State or Territory if the boundaries have not changed for seven years. The number of electorates in Western Australia was unchanged and remained at 14.

The redistributions in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory were caused by changes to the representation entitlements which saw Queensland gain a seat and the Australian Capital Territory lose one.

The new seat in Queensland was named Blair.

The seat abolished in the Australian Capital Territory was Namadgi.