The 1998 Election Statistics CD-ROM includes six data import files for each election – 1993, 1996 and 1998. They are provided for the use of clients who wish to build their own database of election statistics.

General information about the import files

Explanation of descriptions

House of Representatives
Division summary
Candidates and votes by division
Two party preferred by polling place
Distribution of preferences by division and polling place

Senate
Candidates by state
First preference votes by division and polling place

Notes on data structure

General information about the import files

If you wish to build a database with full division and polling place details, you will find that it will be much easier to load and manipulate these data import files into your database system than to extract the information from the Excel spreadsheet files provided elsewhere on this CD-ROM.

Please note that these files do not contain all the information which is on the Excel spreadsheet files. They do not contain:

• summary information such as state or national swings for parties or different types of votes

• information about the Senate distribution of preferences.

If you wish to include this information in your database, you will need to extract it from the appropriate spreadsheet file.

The files are written as ASCII text with one record per line. Each record contains several fields, separated by semi-colons (;). The first record of each file contains the name of each field.

Explanation of descriptions

Key: The numbered 'Key' fields uniquely identify each record within the file and describe the sort order of the record within the file.

Field: The name of the field as given in the first record of the file.

Format: The maximum length and type of characters in the field:

a32   alphabetic up to 32 characters

an32   alphanumeric up to 32 characters

n6   numeric up to 6 characters

n2.n2   percentage - unsigned decimal to 2 decimal places

-n2.n2   swing – signed decimal to 2 decimal places

date   date in format dd-mm-yyyy

Notes: Links to more information about this field.

Comment: Any extra comments or special values for this field.

House of Representatives: Division summary

This file contains the name, state and enrolment of each division as well as vote summary details for the House of Representatives.

	1993	1996	1998
File size (KB):	14	15	14
Number of records:	147	148	148

File name: DIVS.TXT

DATA STRUCTURE

Text files

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DATA STRUCTURE: House of Representatives: Division summary

Key	Field	Format	Notes	Comments
1	State	a3	1	
2	Division	a32	2	
	Enrolment	n6		
	Formal vote	n6	19	
	Informal vote	n5		Sum of values in HTPPBYPP.TXT
	Total vote	n6		Sum of formal vote and informal vote
	Formal pc	n2.n2	3	Formal vote as percentage of total vote
	Formal swing	−n2.n2	4	Change in formal percentage compared to the previous event
	Informal pc	n2.n2	3	Informal vote as percentage of total vote
	Informal swing	−n2.n2	4	Change in informal percentage compared to the previous event
	Turnout	n2.n2	3	Total vote as percentage of enrolment
	Turnout swing	−n2.n2	4,5	Change in turnout percentage compared to the previous event
	ALP TPP vote	n6	17	Sum of values from HTPPBYPP.TXT

DATA STRUCTURE (cont.): House of Representatives: Division summary

Key	Field	Format	Notes	Comments
	Coalition TPP vote	n6	17	Sum of values from HTPPBYPP.TXT
	TPP exhausted	n5	9,17	Sum of values from HTPPBYPP.TXT
	ALP TPP pc	n2.n2	3,17	ALP TPP as a percentage of the total ALP and Coalition vote
	ALP swing	−n2.n2	4,17	Change in ALP TPP percentage compared to the last event

House of Representatives: Candidates and votes by division

This file contains the details of each House of Representatives candidate by division. The swings for 'ghost' candidates from the previous election are also included (see Note 20).

	1993	1996	1998
File size (KB):	61	59	69
Number of records:	1269	1223	1415

File name: HCANDS.TXT

DATA STRUCTURE

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Import files

DATA STRUCTURE: House of Representatives: Candidates and votes by division

Key	Field	Format	Notes	Comments
1	State	a3	1	
2	Division	a32	2	
3	Ballot position	n2	8	>900 for ghost candidates
	Member	a1	11	
	Candidate	a66	18	Blank for ghost candidates
	Party	a4	6	May be blank
	Gender	a1	7	Blank for ghost candidates
	Vote	n6		0 for ghost candidates
	Vote pc	n2.n2	3	Vote as percentage of formal vote in DIVS.TXT
	Swing	-n2.n2	4	Change in vote percentage compared to the previous event

House of Representatives: Two party preferred by polling place

This file contains two party preferred (ALP/Coalition) vote details for the House of Representatives for each polling place and declaration vote type. Division summary and polling place informal vote details are also included.

Note: The data in this file is only valid for the 1998 and 1996 elections. For the 1993 election only the division, polling place and informal vote fields are valid. In 1993 neither the scrutiny for information nor the distribution of preferences were conducted at a polling place level.

	1993	1996	1998
File size (KB):	211	432	417
Number of records:	8830	9054	8846

File name: HTPPBYPP.TXT

DATA STRUCTURE

Text files

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Import files

DATA STRUCTURE: House of Representatives: Two party preferred by polling place

Key	Field	Format	Notes	Comments
1	Division	a32	1	
2	Polling place	a64	10	
	ALP TPP vote	n6	17	
	ALP TPP pc	n2.n2	3,17	
	ALP swing	-n2.n2	4,17	Change in ALP TPP percentage compared to the last event
	Coalition TPP vote	n6	17	
	Coalition party	a3	6,17	Could be LP, NP or CLP
	TPP exhausted	n5	9,17	
	Informal vote	n5		

House of Representatives: Distribution of preferences by division and polling place

This file contains details of first preference votes and the result of the full distribution of preferences for each polling place and declaration vote type for the House of Representatives. A division summary and the swing to/from the winning candidate are also included. Where a candidate is excluded on a count, no records will appear for that candidate on subsequent counts.

Note: In 1993 the distribution of preferences was not conducted at a polling place level; therefore, only the first preferences for each candidate at each polling place and the distribution of preferences for the division are provided in this data file.

	1993	1996	1998
File size (KB):	2739	10316	15425
Number of records:	61 928	232 301	351 395

File name: HPPDOP.TXT

DATA STRUCTURE

Text files

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DATA STRUCTURE: House of Representatives: Distribution of preferences by division and polling place

Key	Field	Format	Notes	Comments
1	State	a3	1	
2	Division	a32	2	
3	Polling place	an64	10	
4	Count	n2		Count 1 is first preferences
5	Ballot position	n2	8	
	Candidate status	a1	14	
	Vote distributed	n5	12	Votes distributed from candidate excluded at this count
	Vote	n6	12	Total progressive votes for each candidate including this count
	Vote pc	n2.n2	3,12	Vote as percentage of sum of votes for all candidates remaining in the count
	Elected swing	-n2.n2	4,12, 15	Change in vote percentage (i.e. TCP swing) compared to previous event
	Exhausted transfer	n4	9,13	Exhausted votes at this count
	Exhausted	n5	9,13	Total exhausted votes including this count

Senate: Candidates by state

This file contains Senate candidate details listed by state, including position on the ballot paper and extra information for elected candidates.

	1993	1996	1998
File size (KB):	11	10	13
Number of records:	266	255	329

File name: SCANDS.TXT

DATA STRUCTURE

Text files
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DATA STRUCTURE: Senate: Candidates by state

Key	Field	Format	Notes	Comments
1	State	a3	1	
2	Ticket	a2	16	
	Group	a4	6	Blank for ungrouped, or unendorsed
3	Ballot position	n2	8	
	Member	a1	11	
	Candidate	a66	18	
	Party	a4	6	May be different from group
	Gender	a1	7	
	Order elected	n2		0 if candidate not elected
	Term expires	date		Only for elected candidates

Senate: First preference votes by division and polling place

This file contains first preference vote details for each Senate candidate and group voting ticket by polling place or declaration vote type. Summary totals for formal, informal and total votes for each polling place are included. Division summary details and adjustments to polling place votes for each division are also included. Except for summary totals, the file only contains records for candidates/tickets with a non-zero vote at the polling place.

	1993	1996	1998
File size (KB):	8070	8380	9007
Number of records:	222 609	230 129	248 142

File name: SPPVOTE.TXT

DATA STRUCTURE

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Import files

DATA STRUCTURE: Senate: First preference votes by division and polling place

Key	Field	Format	Notes	Comments
1	State	a3	1	
2	Division	a32	2	
3	Polling place	an64	10	'Adj' for adjustments
4	Ticket	a2	16	'ZZ' for 'INFORMAL', 'FORMAL' or 'TOTAL'
5	Ballot position	n2	8	0 for 'TICKET VOTES'
	Vote	n6		Can be < 0 for adjustments
	Vote pc	n2.n2	3	Blank for adjustments

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Notes on data structure

1. The state abbreviations used are NSW, VIC, QLD, WA, SA, TAS, ACT, NT. Files are sorted in descending order of population, i.e. NSW first, NT last.

2. Division name can contain spaces, apostrophes or hyphens.

3. Percentages are always rounded to two decimal places.

4. Swings give the change in the percentage vote calculated at the previous federal election or (except where noted) at a redistribution which took place since the previous federal election. Swings will always be preceded by a minus (-) sign if negative and may or may not be preceded by a plus (+) sign if positive. They will always be rounded to two decimal places.

5. Turnout swing is always calculated against the previous federal election even if a redistribution has taken place. Therefore, for new divisions, it cannot be calculated and will appear as blank.

6. Party or Senate group code from list of codes for political parties. For independent candidates the code shown will be either 'IND' or blank.

7. Gender is either (M)ale or (F)emale.

8. Ballot position is a sequence number starting from 1 giving:
   • House of Representatives – the order the candidate appeared on the ballot paper
   • Senate – the order the candidate appeared within the party or group on the ballot paper.

Notes on data structure (cont.)

9. These are ballot papers which show no further valid preference for any candidate and must, therefore, be set aside from the count.

   Note that in 1998 the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* was amended to require that for the House of Representatives a ballot paper must have every box numbered and the numbers must be consecutive starting from '1'. This means that in the 1998 election there were no exhausted ballot papers in the House of Representatives counts.

10. Polling place names, including a record for each declaration vote type (i.e. ABSENT, PRE POLL, POSTAL, PROVISIONAL). This field may include a record for division summary. Special hospital, remote and prison mobile teams may be combined where noted.

11. Member flag = '#' for an elected candidate, otherwise is blank.

12. Blank for excluded candidate.

13. For excluded candidate only, otherwise blank.

14. Candidate status can have values:
    X – for candidate excluded on this count
    R – for candidate remaining in this count
    E – for candidate elected on final count.

15. For elected candidate only, otherwise blank.

16. Ticket can be 'A-Z', 'AA-AZ' or 'UG' for ungrouped.

Notes on data structure (cont.)

17. Two party preferred (TPP):
    - ALP TPP vote – TPP vote allocated to the Australian Labor Party.
    - Coalition TPP vote – TPP vote allocated to the major Coalition party.
    - ALP TPP pc – ALP TPP Vote as % of (ALP TPP Vote + Coalition TPP Vote).

18. Candidate name in format <SURNAME>, <given names>.

19. Division formal vote. For cross-checking this should equal:
    - the sum of count 1 votes for all candidates in division summary from file HPPDOP.TXT
    - the sum of ALP TPP vote, Coalition TPP vote and TPP exhausted for all polling places in the division from file HTPPBYPP.TXT.

20. Ghost candidates are included to show the swing away from parties which contested the previous election in a division but are not contesting the current election. Independent candidates who did not stand again are grouped together as a single ghost candidate with party 'OTH'.