

## Overseas Visitors Program

Sixty one electoral officials from 19 countries in Asia, Europe, the Pacific and Africa participated in the 2001 Election International Visitor Program. The visitor program consisted of two concurrent programs. The first was a study program of 11 days in duration while the second was a shorter polling program of four days duration. This was the largest visitor program ever conducted by the AEC.

In addition to these programs, the AEC also hosted another 25 officers from the Independent Electoral Commission of East Timor who travelled to Melbourne, Darwin and Alice Springs to participate in similar visitor programs.



The 11 day study program covered all aspects of the AEC's administration and conduct of elections. This program was based at the Griffin Business Centre in Kingston, Canberra, and included sessions on the legislative framework for conducting elections, election management, voter education, information technology, voter registration systems and the training of polling staff. The participants also travelled interstate to New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland to observe field operations at an AEC Head Office and several Divisional Offices.

The four day polling program, concentrated on polling and included information sessions on the conduct of the poll and the preliminary counts.

On polling day the participants in both programs visited several polling places in the Canberra region to observe polling and the conduct of the preliminary counts before concluding the night at the national tally room.

[next](#) ►

## Overseas Visitors Program

**Appendix A** details the electoral officials who participated in the 2001 Election International Visitors Program and the countries they represented.

The International Visitor Program was part of the AEC's ongoing commitment to encouraging communication and cooperation with international electoral bodies, particularly those in the Asia Pacific and Southern African regions.

The objectives of the program were to:

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

◀ [previous](#)

The program received many favourable comments from participants including the following:

"The program has been an eye-opener. I reckon these kind of programs, especially exchange, would benefit the world at large in their quest to develop and enhance democracy."

"A great service offered by the AEC to other Electoral Commission groups for exchange and meeting."



International visitors at the National Tally Room being briefed on the workings of the tally board.