

## Glossary

### Absent Vote

Electors who are out of their division but still within their State or Territory may cast an absent vote at any polling place in that State or Territory.

### Candidate

A person who stands for election to Parliament. In Australia candidates can be nominated by political parties or stand as independents.

### Enrolment

You cannot vote at an election unless your name is on the electoral roll. Australian citizens 18 years of age or over (with a few exceptions) must enrol to vote. Enrolment forms are available at all post offices and agencies and Australian Electoral Commission offices and the AEC Website.

### Exhausted Votes

In the Senate count, these are ballot papers which show no further valid preference for any candidate and must, therefore, be set aside from the count. There are no exhausted votes for the House of Representatives as ballot papers must have every box numbered, and the numbers must be consecutive starting from '1'.

### Group Voting Ticket

Within 24 hours of the declaration of nominations for the Senate, groups may lodge a GVT which shows the order in which they want their preferences distributed. If a voter chooses to put the number "1" in one of the boxes above the line on the Senate ballot paper, all the preferences will be distributed according to that group's GVT. Electors may choose to vote according to their own preferences below the line.

### Informal Vote

A ballot paper is generally considered informal if it is not filled out correctly in accordance with the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 and the instructions printed on the ballot paper. Therefore, it cannot be included in the scrutiny.

### Mobile Team

Mobile polling teams bring the polling to the elector. They visit electors in hospitals and nursing homes, prisons and remote locations to enable them to vote.

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### Nomination

Candidates must be nominated before they may be elected to the Senate or the House of Representatives. Nominations can be made after the writ for an election has been issued and by the time and date specified as the close of nominations. For each nomination a deposit must also be lodged.

### Ordinary Vote

A vote cast at a polling place in the elector's home division on polling day. At the 2001 election 84.36% (HoR) / 84.08% (Senate) of electors voted this way.

### Political Party

Political parties registered with the AEC:

- can have party name on the ballot paper
- have entitlements to electoral roll information
- have obligations in regard to financial disclosures
- are entitled to receive public funding based on the number of votes received at an election

### Polling Place/Booth

Polling places are set up in each division to take the votes of the local people. At the 2001 election there were 7 775 ordinary polling places.

### Postal and Pre-Poll Votes

Electors who for various reasons cannot attend a polling place in the State or Territory for which they are enrolled on polling day can apply in writing for a postal vote. They will then be sent their ballot papers which must be posted back before the close of polling. Alternatively a pre-poll vote can be cast in person at any Australian Electoral Commission office or pre-poll voting centre in the lead up to polling day.

### Provisional Vote

These votes are cast in circumstances where an elector's name cannot be found on the roll or has already been marked off the roll. They are not counted until a careful check of enrolment records has been made.

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### Quota

1. Senate - the proportion of votes required by a candidate to be elected
2. Redistribution (entitlement) - the calculation used to determine the number of parliamentary representatives to which a State or Territory is entitled (ie. The number of divisions)
3. Redistribution (enrolment) - the current and projected average divisional enrolment for the State or Territory.

### Swing

The difference between the performance of a candidate or party at one election in comparison to another.

### Transfer Value

In a Senate election a candidate's surplus is transferred to the next available candidate. This is achieved by transferring all ballot papers, but at a fraction of their value.

### Turnout

The percentage of enrolled electors who voted.