

Attachment: REDISTRIBUTION BACKGROUNDER

Why is a redistribution undertaken?

Under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* (the Electoral Act), the Electoral Commissioner is required to use the latest official published statistics of the Commonwealth to ascertain the Australian population on the day after the anniversary of the first meeting of the elected House of Representatives of the current Parliament. As the House of Representatives of the current Parliament first met on 16 November 2004, this date is 17 November 2005.

The Electoral Commissioner is then required to make a determination of each State and Territory's entitlement to representation in the House of Representatives.

State and Territory entitlements are calculated by dividing the total population figure for the Commonwealth, excluding Territory populations, by twice the number of Senators for the States to obtain a quota. The population of each State and Territory is then divided by the quota, and the result rounded to the nearest whole number to determine the entitlement.

The calculation is as follows:

1. Australian Population

Number of the people of the Commonwealth and of the several States and Territories were ascertained to be as follows:

State/Territory¹	Number of the people
The States	
New South Wales	6 764 690
Victoria	5 012 689
Queensland	3 945 940
Western Australia	2 003 778
South Australia	1 540 223
Tasmania	484 745
The Territories	
Australian Capital Territory ²	325 790
Jervis Bay Territory	562
Northern Territory ³	206,492
Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	592
Territory of Christmas Island	1 520
Australian Antarctic Territory	49
Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands	0
Coral Sea Islands Territory	0
Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands	0

The Commonwealth⁴

19 752 065

Notes on Australian Population table

- 1 Under section 38A of the Electoral Act, the Territory of Norfolk Island is not taken to be a Territory for the purposes of this ascertainment.
However, under section 45(2) of the Electoral Act, a Norfolk Island resident who is one of the people of a State for the purposes of sections 7 and 24 of the Constitution is included in the count of the population of the relevant State and of the Commonwealth for the purposes of this ascertainment and, under section 46(2) of the Act, a Norfolk Island resident who is enrolled in a Territory under section 95AA(3) of the Act is also included in the count of the population of the Territory for the purposes of this ascertainment.
- 2 Under section 4 of the Electoral Act, the Jervis Bay Territory is taken to be part of the Australian Capital Territory.
- 3 Pursuant to section 48(2C) of the Electoral Act, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island are taken to be part of the Northern Territory for the purposes of this ascertainment.
- 4 Under section 45 of the Electoral Act, the total number of the people of the Commonwealth does not include the numbers of people of the Territories.

2. The Quota

Under section 48(2)(a) of the Electoral Act, the quota is the number of the people of the Commonwealth¹ divided by twice the number of Senators for the States.

Number of people of the Commonwealth = 19 752 065

Twice the number of Senators for the States = 144

Quota = 137 167.1181

Calculation: $\frac{19\,752\,065}{144} = 137\,167.1181$

3. The Entitlement Determination

The number of Members of the House of Representatives to be chosen in each State and Territory is determined by dividing the number of people in each State and Territory by the quota and rounding the result to the nearest whole number.

see overleaf

State/Territory ¹	Number of people	Divided by the Quota	Result	Number of Members to be chosen	Change
New South Wales	6 764 690	137 167.1181	49.3171	49	-1
Victoria	5 012 689	137 167.1181	36.5444	37	-
Queensland	3 945 940	137 167.1181	28.7674	29	+1
Western Australia	2 003 778	137 167.1181	14.6083	15	-
South Australia	1 540 223	137 167.1181	11.2288	11	-
Tasmania ²	484 745	137 167.1181	3.5340	5	-
Australian Capital Territory ³	325 790	137 167.1181	2.3751	2	-
Northern Territory ⁴	206 492	137 167.1181	1.5054	2	-
Australian Antarctic Territory	49	137 167.1181	0	0	-
Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands	0	137 167.1181	0	0	-
Coral Sea Islands Territory	0	137 167.1181	0	0	-
Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands	0	137 167.1181	0	0	-

Notes on Entitlement Determination

- 1 Under section 38A of the Electoral Act, the Territory of Norfolk Island is not taken to be a Territory for the purposes of this determination.

However, under section 45(2) of the Electoral Act, a Norfolk Island resident who is one of the people of a State for the purposes of sections 7 and 24 of the Constitution is included in the count of the population of the relevant State and of the Commonwealth for the purposes of this determination and, under section 46(2) of the Act, a Norfolk Island resident who is enrolled in a Territory under section 95AA(3) of the Electoral Act is also included in the count of the population the Territory for the purposes of this determination.

- 2 Tasmania is guaranteed a minimum of five Members under section 24 of the Constitution.

Notes on Entitlement Determination continued

- 3 Under section 4 of the Electoral Act, the Jervis Bay Territory is taken to be part of the Australian Capital Territory.
- 4 Under section 48(2C) of the Electoral Act, the Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island are taken for the purposes of this determination to be part of the Northern Territory because they lack sufficient population to qualify for representation in their own right.

Under section 48(2E), should the initial quota calculation for the Northern Territory fall within a prescribed range but less than that necessary to obtain an additional quota, then a recalculation of the population of the Northern Territory is triggered under the Electoral Act. The initial quota calculation was 1.4710. The recalculation must add the population equivalent of two standard errors to the Northern Territory figures as described under sections 47 and 48 of the Act. As a result the Northern Territory quota under the 17 November 2005 determination is 1.5054, which is two quotas when rounded to the nearest whole number.