1996 Regional Council Election Timetable

Gazettal of notice fixing day of polling | 12 July 1996
---|---
Nominations open | 27 July 1996
Close of enrolment | 10 September 1996 (5.00pm)
Close of nominations | 11 September 1996 (5.00pm)
Close of receipt of candidates’ photos | 18 September 1996 (5.00pm)
Commence mobile polling | 30 September 1996
Polling day | 12 October 1996

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
1996 Election Results

On Saturday 12 October 1996 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia voted to elect representatives on the thirty five Regional Councils of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).

No election was required for the Palm Island Ward of the Townsville Region because the number of nominations equaled the number of vacancies.

Regional Councils are bodies of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people elected to represent the interests of their people in a particular region.

This is the third round of ATSIC Regional Council elections. The first election was held in 1990 and the second in 1993. Changes to the ATSIC legislation in September this year reduced the number of Regional Council positions from 590 to 375.

The elections, which were conducted for ATSIC by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), were to fill between 9 and 12 positions on each ATSIC Regional Council.

Regional Councils comprise between one and five wards and a total of 1,269 nominations were received for the 375 Regional Council vacancies.

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were enrolled on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll were eligible to vote.

Voting was not compulsory, and all votes were cast as declaration votes. This means electors filled out a Voter Card with their name, address and date of birth, marked the ballot paper, inserted it in the Voter Card Envelope and sealed it before presenting it to a Liaison Officer.

Each elector’s personal details were later checked against the electoral roll to ensure they were correctly enrolled. Only after the Voter Card was checked was the ballot paper admitted to the count. For the sake of secrecy of the ballot, Voter Cards with personal details were kept separate from envelopes containing ballot papers.

The Commonwealth Electoral Roll does not differentiate between indigenous and non-indigenous electors. Because of this the AEC was not able to determine accurately how many people were eligible to vote in the elections. ATSIC estimated that there were 172,305 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people eligible to vote, if enrolled, in the election.

A total of 49,250 of the estimated 172,305 eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people voted at 123 pre-poll voting centres, 520 static polling places, 43 hospitals and 51 prisons. There were also 449 mobile polling stations visited.

The elected members of the Regional Councils in turn elected 16 Commissioners to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (see page 14).
### Regional Council Officeholder Elections (Cont’d)

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<th>Nomination</th>
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**Regional Council Officeholder Elections**

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Archived for historical research only.
Zone Representative Elections

Following the Regional Council elections, the elected members in each ATSIC zone elected a Commissioner to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. These elections, called Zone elections, were conducted between 25 November and 3 December 1996. The results are as follows:

- New South Wales (East) Jim Wright
- New South Wales (Metropolitan) John Delaney
- New South Wales (West) Steve Gordon
- Victoria Geoff Clark
- Queensland (Far North West) Lester Rosendale
- Queensland (Metropolitan) Ian Delaney
- Queensland (North) Terry O'Shane
- Queensland (South) Ray (Sugar) Robinson
- Western Australia (Central) Terry Whitby
- Western Australia (North) Reg Birch
- Western Australia (South East) Preston Thomas
- Western Australia (South West) Spencer Keith Riley
- South Australia Wayne Miller
- Tasmania Leonie Dickson
- Northern Territory (Central) David Curtis
- Northern Territory (North) Josie Crawshaw

The 17th elected Commissioner represents the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and will be elected following the TSRA elections expected to be held in March 1997. The current Commissioner representing the TSRA will continue in office until a new Commissioner is elected.

Regional Council Officeholder Elections

Following their election, Regional Councillors voted to elect a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for their Council. These elections were held between 26 November and 4 December 1996 and the results are as follows:

- New South Wales
  - Bourke Chair Sam Jeffries
  - Deputy William Bates
  - Coffs Harbour Chair Jimmy Budd
  - Deputy Gordon Griffiths
  - Queanbeyan Chair Ossie Stewart
  - Deputy Keith Hunter
  - Sydney Chair Chris B Williams
  - Deputy Ann Weldon
  - Tamworth Chair Ronald W Allen
  - Deputy Stella Lamb
  - Wagga Wagga Chair Hewitt Whyman
  - Deputy Neville Brown

- Victoria
  - Ballarat Chair Bob Egan
  - Deputy Troy Austin
  - Wangaratta Chair Lois Peeler
  - Deputy Daphne Dowd (Yarram)

- Queensland
  - Brisbane Chair Patricia Thompson
  - Deputy Duncan James Johnson
  - Cairns Chair Nerelle Joy Nicol
  - Deputy Mary O'Shane

1996 Regional Council Election Statistics

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Archived for historical research only
### 1996 Regional Council Election Statistics

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| South Australia |             |           |             |                |
| Kaurna         | 8           | 16       |             | 428            |
| Murrundi       | 4           | 16       |             | 310            |
| Ceduna         | 2           | 5        |             | 98             |
|              | 4           | 6        | n/a         | 262 +          |
|              | 3           | 8        | n/a         | 153            |
|              | 2           | 7        | 163        | 162            |
|              | 1           | 2        | 105        | 177            |
|              | 2           | 10       | 334        | 278            |
|              | 1           | 3        | n/a        | 59             |
|              | 4           | 14       |             | 361            |
| Nulla Wanga Tjuta North | 4           | 14       |             | 361            |
| Nulla Wanga Tjuta South | 3           | 8        |             | 153            |
| State total   | 31          | 87       | 2235*       | 2412           |

### 1996 ATSIC Regional Council Election Voting System

There are two systems of counting the votes depending on whether the ward is electing one person to represent them or more than one person.

**ELECTING ONE REPRESENTATIVE**

In wards where only one representative was to be elected, the successful candidate had to obtain more than half the votes in the count for that ward. If a candidate obtained more than half the first preference votes, then he or she was elected.

If no candidate obtained more than half the first preference votes, then the votes of the candidate with the fewest first preference votes were passed on to the candidate who had been given the voter’s second preference. These were added to the first preference votes those candidates already had and if any candidate now had more than half the votes, then that candidate was elected.

This process of excluding the candidate with the lowest number of votes and distributing his or her votes to candidates still in the count, continued until a candidate gained more than half the votes in the count for that ward.

**ELECTING TWO OR MORE REPRESENTATIVES**

In wards where there were two or more representatives to be elected the successful candidate had to obtain a quota to be elected. The quota was calculated by dividing the number of formal ballot papers by the number of positions plus one and then adding one to the result (disregarding any remainder):

\[
\text{surplus votes} = \frac{\text{total number of candidate's ballot papers}}{\text{number of positions} + 1} + 1
\]

So if there were 500 formal ballot papers and 12 positions to be filled the quota would have been:

\[
\frac{500}{12 + 1} + 1 = 39
\]

Any candidate who obtained the quota was immediately elected. Any votes that a candidate gained which were over the quota (in this case 39) were called ‘surplus’ votes.

This surplus was distributed to the candidates who received the second preference. All ballot papers were transferred at a fraction of the full vote. This fraction was calculated like this:

\[
\text{surplus votes} = \frac{\text{total number of candidate's ballot papers}}{\text{number of positions} + 1} + 1
\]

Any votes that candidates received from this distribution of surplus votes were added to the votes already obtained. If a candidate reached the quota, then he or she was elected. Any surplus votes of this candidate were then transferred to the remaining candidates.

If all surplus votes were transferred and there were still vacancies, then the candidate with the lowest number of votes was excluded and his or her votes were transferred to the candidate who had been given the next preference on the ballot paper. This process continued until all vacancies were filled.

This system (known as ‘proportional representation’) is similar to the method of electing Senators at federal elections.
1996 ATSIC Election: Successful Candidates

Ward 2
Phillip Goodman
Georgina Bell (Ahmat)
Joan Mullins
Ward 3
Theresa Francis
Ward 4
Harry Singh

JABIRU
Coburg
Ronald Lamilami
Daly River
Harry Wilson
Jahiru
Isaiah Burrnali
Jonathan Nadj
Norman Angulagula
Ralph Nadjamerre
Tiwi Islands
Barry Puruntatameri
Danny Munkara
Robert Tipungwuti
Wadlay
Jack Woddj
Bernard Jabinee

KATHERINE
Ward 1
George Campbell
Ward 2
Doug Johnson
Lindsay (Jungarayi) Herbert
Ward 3
Noel McDonald
Andy Andrews
Graham Campbell
Ward 4
Peter Miller
Nigel Gellar

NHULUNBUY
East
Bobby Munurung Wunungmurra
Wali Wunungmurra
Bakamum Marika
South
Bruce Herbert
Mungayana (Don) Nundhirribala
Tony Warramarrba
West
David Marpipawy
Weluk (John) Daymirringu
Jack Munyarir
Jeffrey Malawa
James Yirrir

TENNANT CREEK
Tennant Creek
Noel Hayes
David Shannon
David Curtis
Amy Lauder (Dixon)
Billy Fitz (Jakamara)

1996 Regional Council Election Statistics

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## 1996 Regional Council Election Statistics

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### National total

| Total | 375 | 1269 | 45820 | 49550 |

* These figures include votes received for wards which have been abolished since the 1993 election and are not shown here.

# 2 ballot papers returned in 1 envelope.

+ 1 ballot paper not returned.

n/a These wards were created for the 1996 election, so there are no results for the 1993 election.

---

## 1996 ATSIC Election: Elected Candidates

**Western Desert**
- Nyaparu Landy
- Teddy Biljabu
- Darren Farmer
- Bruce Booth

**South Australia**
- Kaurna
  - Matt Rigney
  - Pat Buckskin
  - Basil (Mulla) Sumner
  - Tauto Sambury
  - Shirley Peisley
  - Sandra Saunders
  - Fred Warrior
  - Marj Tripp
  - Murrundi
  - Henry Rankine
  - Francis Lovegrove
  - Vic Wilson
  - Frances Day

**CEDUNA**
- Kakarrara Wilurrara
  - Alan Dodd
  - David Edwards
  - Wangka Pulka North
  - Wayne Miller
  - Milton (Mitch) Dunnett
  - Malcolm (Ben) Champion
  - Jeff Scott
  - Wangka Pulka South
  - Barry (Jack) Johncock
  - Norm Pickett
  - Peter Burgoyne

**Tasmania**
- Hobart
  - Charles Wolf
  - Brian Fisher
  - Helen (Faye) Tatnell
  - Roy (Rocky) Sainty
  - John Clark
  - Roy Maynard
  - Garry M Maynard
  - Debbie Oakford
  - Rodney Dillon
  - Leonie Dickson
  - Jo James
  - Philip James Becton

**Northern Territory**
- Alice Springs
  - Geoff Shaw
  - William Tilmouth
  - Ken Lechleitner
  - Eileen Hoosan
  - Johnny Liddle
  - Maureen Abbott
  - Kevin Wirri
  - Alison Hunt
  - Raeline Kenny
  - Frank Curtis

**APATULA**
- Arltarlapita
  - Willie Bookle
  - Pauline Conway
  - Phillip Wilyuka
- Impiyara
  - Tjuki Pumpjack
- Papunya
  - Roy (Tingini) Larry
  - Clary Robinya
  - Alison Anderson
  - Conrad Ratara
  - Lindsay Jampijinpa Turner
  - Dennis Williams Japangka

**Darwin**
- Ward 1
  - John (Patto) Paterson
  - Josie Crawshaw
  - Valemina J White
  - Gregory Bonson
  - William (Nungah) Ah Mat
  - Carmelita Dunn

Archived for historical research only
1996 ATSIC Election: Elected Candidates

Western Australia

BROOME
- Glynis Sibosado
- Charles (Charla) Clements
- Kevin Puertollano
- Ricky Roe
- Mary Theresa Barker
- Outer Areas
  - Zalie Bin Rashid
  - Philip (Matso) Matsumoto
  - Kevin George
  - Frank Davey
- Broome
  - Glynis Sibosado
  - Charles (Charla) Clements
  - Kevin Puertollano
  - Ricky Roe
  - Mary Theresa Barker
  - Outer Areas
    - Zalie Bin Rashid
    - Philip (Matso) Matsumoto
    - Kevin George
    - Frank Davey

KALGOORLIE
- North
  - Elvis Tuan Stokes
  - Cyril Barnes
- South
  - Veronica Williams-Bennell
  - Edward (Snowy) Dimer
  - Anthony Meredith
- Town
  - Jenny Carter
  - Greg Stubbs
  - Russell Graham
  - Susan Wyatt
- KUNUNURRA
  - Kotjongka
  - Robert McKay
  - Eddie Calyon
  - Wunan
  - Frank Chulung
  - Ian Trust
  - Reg Birch
  - Laurie Waina
  - Ted Carlton
  - Yarreyel
  - Jock Mosquito
  - David Tchooga
  - Trevor Bedford
- NARROGIN
  - Albany
  - Oscar Colbung
  - Jeanice (Bingo) Krinkouer
  - David Williams
  - Bunbury
  - Richard Bennell
  - Lora Bennell
  - Jodi Jones
  - Moora
  - Fred Mogridge
  - Narrogin
  - Arthur Slater
- Northam
  - Rod Garlett
  - Murray (Icko) Yarran

PERTH
- Perth
  - Spencer Keith Riley
  - Denis Hayward
  - Everett Kickett
  - Robin John Yarran
  - Clem Riley
  - Wayne Dally
  - Cedric Jacobs
  - Geoffrey Narkle
  - Terry Garlett
  - Colleen Councillor
  - Lorraine Whitby
  - Lyall Herbert Calyon (Woods)
- SOUTH HEDLAND
  - Ashburton
  - Slim Parker
  - East Pilbara
  - Cheryl Mackay
  - Jean Walker
  - Port Hedland
  - Terry Whitby
  - Barry Taylor
  - Adrian (Ducko) Brahim
  - Ron Attwood
  - Roebourne
  - John Cedar
  - Gladys Walker
  - Wilfred Hicks

1996 Regional Council Election Statistics

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Total Votes: 5981, Formal Votes: 42324, Informal Votes: 1243
1996 ATSIC Election: Elected Candidates

New South Wales

BOURKE
NSW Far West
William (Smiley) Johnstone
William Murray
William Bates
Wangkumara
Steve Gordon
Barry Edwards
Sam Jeffries
George Fernando
Allan Lamb
Pat (Lolly) Bates-Canty
Kevin Knight

COFFS HARBOUR
Gattang
Jim Wright
Elizabeth May Cohen
Julie Russell
Manuel Ritchie
Ray (Jnr) Kelly
Steve Blunden
Gordon Griffiths
Northern Rivers
Tim Torrens
Jimmy Budd
Des Williams
Andrew Hedges
Dean Jarrett

QUEANBEYAN
Bogong
Matilda House
Bill Humes
Meg Huddleston
Flo Grant
Keith Hunter

WAGGA WAGGA
Deniliquin
Greg Murray
Murrumbidgee/Lachlan
Robert Carroll
Wirawongam
Sydney
John Delaney
Ann Weldon
Cliff Foley
Robert Lester
Chris Mumber
Chris B Williams
Locky Ingram
Dorothy Shipley
Narelle Lyons
Darrell French
Bruce Kendall
Maxine Conaty

TAMWORTH
Gumilaroi
Lyall James Munro
Jacko Woodbridge
Donald (Duck) Cruigile (Haines)
Val Dahlstrom
Ray Whitfield
Quirinli
Gwen Griffen
Stella Lamb
Annie May Taylor
Ronald W Allen
Tingha
Bonny Walford
Eddie Briggs
Irene Lockwood

Queensland

BRISBANE
Brisbane
Ian Delaney
Robbie Williams
Jeannie Barney
Les Mather
Steve Main
Duncan James Johnson

Brisbane North
Cheryl Cougan
Noel M King

Brisbane South
Patricia Thompson
Sam Backo
Graham Dillon
Nungan Allen (Cecil) Fisher

CAIRNS
Cairns
Tumbukka
Bob Egan
Bev Peter
Wayne Muir
Des Morgan
Richard Fry
Geoff Clark
Olive Walsh (Day)
West Melbourne
Alf Bamblett
Reg Blow
Ron James
Alma Thorpe
Troy Austin

Queensland

Gippsland
Terry Hood
Robert Farnham
Daphne Dowd (Yarram)

Goulburn Valley
Frances Mathyssen
Paul Briggs
John Martin

COOKTOWN
Cooktown
Jacob Wolmby
Gerhardt (Joe) Pearson
Lester Rodendale
Walter Parry
Robbie Salec
Michael Ross
Lawrence Foote
Dick Namai
James Richard Dick
Eddie (Mooka) Woodley

MT ISA
Burke
Peter Mabb
Reg Hooke
Carpentaria
Fred Pascoe
Mornington
Annie Chong
Mount Isa
Warren King
Pattie Lees
Colin (Beo) John Saltmarch
Kerry Major
South East
Don Rowlands
Ron Page

ROCKHAMPTON
Rockhampton
Terry Munns
Heather Toby
David Wragge
Bob Blair
Harry Mimi
Steve Kemp
Peter Savage
Priscilla Ann Iles
Lindsay Collins
Margaret Horningold
Steve Vea Vea

ROMA
Roma
Ray (Sugar) Robinson
Randall Taylor
Ken Bone
Bertie Button
Gary White
Lyle Capewell
Bob Munn
Jim South
Garry (Sonny) Martin
James V Wharton
Wayne (Coco) Wharton

TOWNSVILLE
Charters Towers
Vassa Iris Hunter
Ingham
Adrian J Pryor
Mackay
James Leslie Gaston
Ian Appo
Russell Bellear
Bel A Lui
Palm Island
Alfred Lacey
Sylvia (Jeanie Mack) Reuben
Townsville
Jenny Pryor
Shayne Blackman
Francis Tapim
Richard Mosby

Victoria

BALLARAT
Tumbukka
Bob Egan
Bev Peter
Wayne Muir
Des Morgan
Richard Fry
Geoff Clark
Olive Walsh (Day)
West Melbourne
Alf Bamblett
Reg Blow
Ron James
Alma Thorpe
Troy Austin

CAIRNS
Cairns
Tumbukka
Bob Egan
Bev Peter
Wayne Muir
Des Morgan
Richard Fry
Geoff Clark
Olive Walsh (Day)
West Melbourne
Alf Bamblett
Reg Blow
Ron James
Alma Thorpe
Troy Austin

WANGARATTA
East Melbourne
Lois Peeler
Margaret Wirrpunda (Briggs)
Beryl Thomas
Karen Milward
David Farrall

1996 ATSIC Election: Elected Candidates

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