

12 December 2018

Informal Ballot Paper Study, 2016 House of Representatives elections

Divisional summaries: Northern Territory

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Notes for divisional summaries

Number of candidates

The number of candidates on the ballot paper for each division has been added to divisional summaries for the 2016 House of Representatives elections. A higher number of candidates may have an impact on informality categories as it increases the likelihood of voters making errors while marking their ballot (i.e. non-sequential numbering), or simply choosing to stop numbering at a given point (i.e. incomplete numbering).

Demographic rating

The following demographic ratings are applied to divisions:

- *Inner metropolitan*: located in a capital city and comprising well-established, built-up suburbs.
- *Outer metropolitan*: located in capital cities and containing areas of more recent urban expansion.
- *Provincial*: divisions with a majority of enrolment in major provincial cities.
- *Rural*: divisions without a majority of enrolment in major provincial cities.

Swings

Percentage point swings for turnout and formality are included to show how these measures have increased or decreased between the 2013 and 2016 federal elections (a positive swing indicates the measure has increased, while a negative swing indicates it has decreased). Calculations for swings account for the redistribution of divisional boundaries.

Informality categories

For the purposes of these divisional summaries, informal ballot papers have been grouped into the following categories:

- Totally blank ballots
- Ballots with incomplete numbering
 - Those with a number '1' only
 - All other ballots with incomplete numbering
- Ballots with ticks and crosses
- Ballots with other symbols
- Ballots with non-sequential numbering
- Ballots with scribbles, slogans and other protest vote marks
- Ballots with illegible numbering
- Ballots where the voter has been identified

- Other informal ballot papers

Counts by informality category are divided between ballot papers showing a clear first preference and those with no clear first preference.

- Ballot papers that are informal due to incomplete numbering or voter identification will always show a clear first preference.
- Similarly, ballot papers that are totally blank or that have been placed in the category for scribbles/slogans or protest vote marks will never show a clear first preference.

Polling places with highest and lowest informal voting rates

For the purposes of these divisional summaries, polling places include static polling places and pre-poll voting centres, as well as votes cast through mobile polling teams. Polling places or teams that received fewer than 100 ordinary or pre-poll votes in total (i.e. formal and informal votes combined) are excluded.

Lingiari

Number of candidates: 9

Demographic rating: Rural

Key statistics	No.	%	Swing
Enrolled	63,131
Turnout	46,525	73.70	-1.72
Informal votes	3,650	7.85	+0.42

Type of vote cast	Formal votes no.	Informal votes no.	Total votes no.	Informality rate %
Ordinary ¹	28,087	2,710	30,797	8.80
Absent	692	56	748	7.49
Postal	1,463	46	1,509	3.05
Pre-poll ordinary	10,888	714	11,602	6.15
Pre-poll declaration	1,550	90	1,640	5.49
Provisional	195	34	229	14.85
Total	42,875	3,650	46,525	7.85

Informal votes by category	Clear first preference	No clear first preference	Total	
	no.	no.	no.	%
Totally blank	..	444	444	12.2
Incomplete numbering – number '1' only	252	..	252	6.9
Incomplete numbering – other	659	..	659	18.1
Ticks and crosses	100	36	136	3.7
Other symbols	38	3	41	1.1
Non-sequential numbering	1,264	250	1,514	41.5
Scribbles, slogans and other protest vote marks	..	410	410	11.2
Illegible numbering	62	23	85	2.3
Voter identified	0	..	0	0.0
Other	22	87	109	3.0
Total	2,397	1,253	3,650	100.0

Polling places with highest and lowest informal voting rates ²		Informal votes no.	Total votes no.	Informality rate %
Highest % informal	Remote Mobile Team 6	170	935	18.18
Lowest % informal	Nhulunbuy	27	717	3.77

¹ Excludes pre-poll ordinary votes. Comprises 15,196 votes cast at 20 static polling places and 15,601 votes cast through 18 mobile polling (Remote Mobile) teams.

² Excludes polling places that received fewer than 100 ordinary or pre-poll votes in total.

Solomon

Number of candidates: 11

Demographic rating: Inner Metropolitan

Key statistics	No.	%	Swing
Enrolled	69,998
Turnout	58,665	83.81	-5.50
Informal votes	4,080	6.95	+1.65

Type of vote cast	Formal votes no.	Informal votes no.	Total votes no.	Informality rate %
Ordinary ¹	35,122	2,892	38,014	7.61
Absent	878	95	973	9.76
Postal	3,533	121	3,654	3.31
Pre-poll ordinary	11,791	750	12,541	5.98
Pre-poll declaration	3,051	183	3,234	5.66
Provisional	210	39	249	15.66
Total	54,585	4,080	58,665	6.95

Informal votes by category	Clear first preference	No clear first preference	Total	
	no.	no.	no.	%
Totally blank	..	716	716	17.5
Incomplete numbering – number '1' only	279	..	279	6.8
Incomplete numbering – other	667	..	667	16.3
Ticks and crosses	112	42	154	3.8
Other symbols	58	13	71	1.7
Non-sequential numbering	1,065	184	1,249	30.6
Scribbles, slogans and other protest vote marks	..	716	716	17.5
Illegible numbering	69	42	111	2.7
Voter identified	0	..	0	0.0
Other	39	78	117	2.9
Total	2,289	1,791	4,080	100.0

Polling places with highest and lowest informal voting rates ²		Informal votes no.	Total votes no.	Informality rate %
Highest % informal	Woodroffe	84	710	11.83
Lowest % informal	Darwin SOLOMON PPVC	223	4 764	4.68

¹ Excludes pre-poll ordinary votes. Comprises 37,723 votes cast at 21 static polling places and 291 votes cast through mobile polling teams (277 votes cast through a Special Hospital team and 14 votes cast through an Other Mobile team).

² Excludes polling places that received fewer than 100 ordinary or pre-poll votes in total.