

11 December 2018

Informal Ballot Paper Study, 2016 House of Representatives elections

**Divisional summaries: Australian Capital
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.

Canberra

Number of candidates: 4

Demographic rating: Inner Metropolitan

Key statistics	No.	%	Swing
Enrolled	143,231
Turnout	132,310	92.38	-4.08
Informal votes	3,590	2.71	-1.14

Type of vote cast	Formal votes no.	Informal votes no.	Total votes no.	Informality rate %
Ordinary ¹	81,169	2,409	83,578	2.88
Absent	1,309	29	1,338	2.17
Postal	6,368	90	6,458	1.39
Pre-poll ordinary	32,761	909	33,670	2.70
Pre-poll declaration	6,662	127	6,789	1.87
Provisional	451	26	477	5.45
Total	128,720	3,590	132,310	2.71

Informal votes by category	Clear first preference	No clear first preference	Total	
	no.	no.	no.	%
Totally blank	..	1,013	1,013	28.2
Incomplete numbering – number '1' only	491	..	491	13.7
Incomplete numbering – other	70	..	70	1.9
Ticks and crosses	266	31	297	8.3
Other symbols	28	10	38	1.1
Non-sequential numbering	79	128	207	5.8
Scribbles, slogans and other protest vote marks	..	1,278	1,278	35.6
Illegible numbering	20	58	78	2.2
Voter identified	0	..	0	0.0
Other	19	99	118	3.3
Total	973	2,617	3,590	100.0

Polling places with highest and lowest informal voting rates ²		Informal votes no.	Total votes no.	Informality rate %
Highest % informal	Norfolk Island	50	295	16.95
Lowest % informal	Parkes (Canberra)	18	2,629	0.68

¹ Excludes pre-poll ordinary votes. Comprises 82,369 votes cast at 44 static polling places and 1,209 votes cast through five mobile polling teams (1,184 votes cast through four Special Hospital teams and 25 votes cast through an Other Mobile team).

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

Fenner

Number of candidates: 5

Demographic rating: Inner Metropolitan

Key statistics	No.	%	Swing
Enrolled	138,814
Turnout	127,617	91.93	-0.88
Informal votes	3,595	2.82	-0.99

Type of vote cast	Formal votes no.	Informal votes no.	Total votes no.	Informality rate %
Ordinary ¹	77,157	2,411	79,568	3.03
Absent	1,781	76	1,857	4.09
Postal	6,049	90	6,139	1.47
Pre-poll ordinary	32,936	892	33,828	2.64
Pre-poll declaration	5,584	109	5,693	1.91
Provisional	515	17	532	3.20
Total	124,022	3,595	127,617	2.82

Informal votes by category	Clear first preference	No clear first preference	Total	
	no.	no.	no.	%
Totally blank	..	1,149	1,149	32.0
Incomplete numbering – number '1' only	416	..	416	11.6
Incomplete numbering – other	103	..	103	2.9
Ticks and crosses	186	42	228	6.3
Other symbols	80	0	80	2.2
Non-sequential numbering	145	150	295	8.2
Scribbles, slogans and other protest vote marks	..	1,171	1,171	32.6
Illegible numbering	30	28	58	1.6
Voter identified	0	..	0	0.0
Other	0	95	95	2.6
Total	960	2,635	3,595	100.0

Polling places with highest and lowest informal voting rates ²		Informal votes no.	Total votes no.	Informality rate %
Highest % informal	Charnwood	122	2,560	4.77
Lowest % informal	Divisional Office (PREPOLL)	2	236	0.85

¹ Excludes pre-poll ordinary votes. Comprises 78,824 votes cast at 34 static polling places and 744 votes cast through four mobile polling teams (680 votes cast through three Special Hospital teams and 64 votes cast through an Other Mobile team).

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