

From: Gary & Margaret Richardson
Sent: Saturday, 19 January 2013 12:52 PM
To: Elections
Subject: ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write in response to the request for community input to the review of the size of the ACT Legislative Assembly. The website indicates that an increase in the numbers of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA's) is almost a fait accompli, however a convincing case can be made to decrease MLA numbers.

In terms of MLA numbers to population numbers, the following is germane :

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>MLA's*</i>	<i>People per</i> <i>MLA</i>
<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>234,000</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>9,360</i>
<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>512,000</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>12,800</i>
<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>374,700</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>22,041</i>
<i>South Australia</i>	<i>1,700,000</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>24,637</i>
<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>2,430,000</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>25,578</i>
<i>Queensland</i>	<i>4,600,000</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>51,685</i>
<i>Victoria</i>	<i>6,800,000</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>53,125</i>
<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>7,300,000</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>54,074</i>

(Source : State and Territory Government websites).

** includes members from both the upper and lower houses (Assembly and Council).*

As you can see, the ACT is well off for numbers of MLA's, standing 3rd on the list behind NT and TAS. As far as I can ascertain, the only reason to increase the numbers of MLA's in the ACT is to match the numbers in the Northern Territory. On a pro-rata basis, NT has more than five times as many MLA's as NSW, Victoria and Queensland, whilst the ACT has more than twice the number of MLA's per head of population when compared to those states.

I sincerely hope that the debate regarding the numbers of MLA's in the ACT is not driven by the number of MLA's in the Northern Territory. We do not need any more MLA's in the ACT, and we cannot afford to fund more MLA's than are necessary.

For your consideration.

Gary Richardson