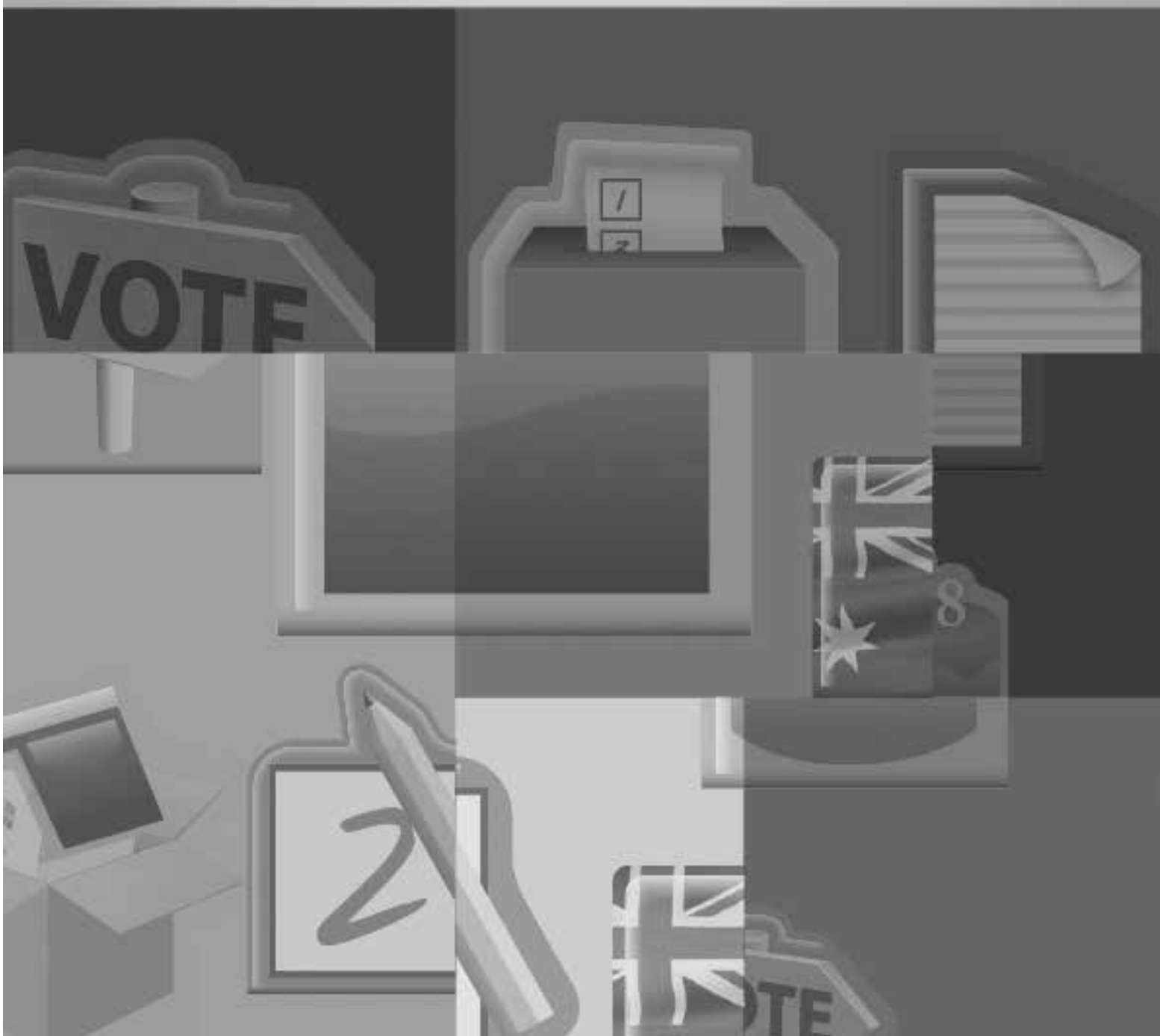


Report on the ACT Legislative Assembly Election 2012



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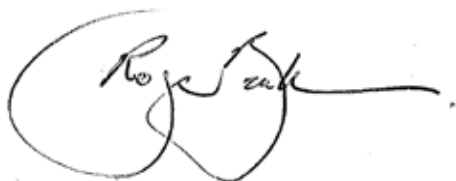
Mr Simon Corbell MLA
Attorney General
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Attorney General

This report on the conduct of the 2012 ACT Legislative Assembly election is presented to you under section 10A of the Electoral Act 1992.

Section 10A(2) of the Electoral Act requires you to present a copy of this report to the Legislative Assembly within 6 sitting days of receiving the report.

Yours sincerely



Roger Beale AO
Chairperson

July 2013



Phillip Green
Electoral Commissioner

July 2013



Dawn Casey
Member

July 2013

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Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACT Self-Government Act	<i>Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988</i> (Commonwealth)
AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
Commission	ACT Electoral Commission
Commissioner	ACT Electoral Commissioner
Commonwealth Electoral Act	<i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> (Commonwealth)
EEP	Eligible elector population (an estimate of the number of persons who are eligible to be enrolled at a particular point in time)
eLAPPS	electronic Legislative Assembly Polling Place System
Elections ACT	The office of the Electoral Commissioner and the staff appointed to assist the Commissioner
Electoral Act	<i>Electoral Act 1992</i>
Hare-Clark	The proportional representation electoral system used in the ACT
JACS	ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety
joint roll	The common ACT and Commonwealth electoral roll maintained under a formal government-to-government arrangement
MLA	Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly
non-voter	A person listed on the electoral roll for an election who apparently did not vote at that election
OIC	Officer in charge of a polling place or pre-poll centre
party	A political party registered under the Electoral Act
PDA s	Personal Digital Assistants (hand-held computers used in polling places as electronic electoral rolls)
redistribution	A redistribution of electoral boundaries
SSICT	The ACT Government information technology management agency
2IC	Second in charge of a polling place

Introduction

This report examines the conduct of the ACT Legislative Assembly election held on 20 October 2012 and makes recommendations for some relatively minor changes to the *Electoral Act 1992*.

At each ACT Legislative Assembly election, the ACT Electoral Commission aims to improve upon the services it provides. At the 2012 election the Commission consolidated the achievements of the 2008 election and introduced further innovations. Of particular note was the introduction of a comprehensive electronic polling place management system, incorporating the networked marking of names of voters on electronic electoral rolls across all polling places, electronic transmission of results on polling night, on-line interactive training of polling officials and the provision of electronic voting to around 1 in 4 of all ACT voters.

These innovations combined to provide electoral services to the highest ever number of ACT electors, with the result provided in the shortest time, beating the 2008 record by some hours. The final result for the election was announced mid-afternoon on Saturday, 27 October 2012, 7 days after polling day.

This report examines the conduct of the 2012 election and the operation of the Electoral Act, focussing on recommending areas for improvement.

This review can be read in conjunction with the following reports:

- ◇ *Election Statistics: ACT Legislative Assembly election 2012*; and
- ◇ The Commission's *Annual Report 2012/2013*.

The Commission's Annual Report for 2012/2013 will also necessarily contain information on the conduct of the election, but will not contain the detail of this report. The Annual Report will refer readers seeking more detail to this report.

In addition to reporting on the conduct of the 2012 election, this report makes recommendations for changes to the electoral legislation with a view to preparations for and the conduct of the 2016 ACT Legislative Assembly election.

Notable features of the 2012 election

Notable features of the 2012 ACT Legislative Assembly election included:

- ◇ Taking the highest number of votes in an ACT election – 229,125 (compared to 220,119 in 2008);
- ◇ Having the highest number of eligible voters for any ACT election - 256,702 (compared to 243,471 in 2008);
- ◇ Successful expansion of electronic voting facilities to 59,200 voters – over 25% of all voters (compared to 43,525 in 2008, 19.9% of all voters);
- ◇ Despite high participation rates in absolute terms, in percentage terms participation rates were lower than in 2008, with the percentage of electors on the roll compared to estimated eligible population at 93.9%, compared to 97.1% in 2008, with the 18-25 year age group being particularly under-represented, and a turnout of 89.3% of enrolled voters, down from 90.4% in 2008;
- ◇ Using networked computers to provide electronic electoral rolls in all polling places, enabling the transmission of marked-off voter names to all rolls across the ACT – an enhancement on the stand-alone electronic roll system introduced in 2008 – leading to efficiencies and environmental savings and reducing the likelihood of voting fraud;
- ◇ Continued provision of secret voting facilities for blind and sight-impaired people using electronic voting, and for the first time introducing the preferred telephone style keypad for blind and vision impaired voters;
- ◇ Conducting an extensive public information campaign, combining traditional media advertising with public relations activities and the adoption of new Elections ACT social media platforms for the first time in an ACT election;
- ◇ High voter satisfaction with electoral services, with over 95% of voters expressing satisfaction with their overall voting experience;
- ◇ Using the intelligent character recognition scanning system (first used in Australia for the 2008 ACT election) for capturing and counting preferences marked on paper ballots;
- ◇ Finalising the election result in record time, with the count concluded 7 days after polling day as a result of combining the scanning of paper ballots with electronic voting and the eVACS® counting system, breaking the 2008 record by some hours;
- ◇ Introducing an improved interactive on-line electronic training manual for polling staff, building on the success of the system first used in the ACT in 2008;
- ◇ Continued use of an electronic display for the draw for positions on ballot papers;
- ◇ Improving on the 2008 version of the simplified processes for applying for a postal vote, including on-line and phone applications, contributing to a record number of postal votes counted – 9,859 (compared to 9,599 in 2008);
- ◇ Extending the number of pre-poll voting centres to 6 (from 5 in 2008), contributing to a record number of voters using pre-poll voting: 61,660 (compared to 44,635 in 2008);
- ◇ Use of an improved display of election results on the internet and in the Tally Room on and after election night, which operated without interruption;

- ◇ Introducing substantial changes to the funding, expenditure and financial disclosure provisions that included caps on the amount of gifts that could be used for ACT elections, caps on the amount of expenditure that could be incurred on ACT elections, more frequent disclosure of gifts received, and payment to political parties with Assembly representatives for administrative purposes; and
- ◇ Payment of a record amount in public funding to parties and candidates: \$409,402, following an increase in the rate of funding to \$2 per vote (compared to \$295,453 in 2008).

In recognition of the Commission's achievements with its information campaign for the 2012 ACT election, the Commission was presented with an ACT Multicultural Award in the Media category in November 2012.

In March 2013 the Commission was awarded an Innovation Award by the Director-General of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate in recognition of the ICT innovations deployed at the 2012 election.

Recommendations

The Commission has made the following recommendations in this report.

Recommendation 1

The Commission **recommends** that the Electoral Act be amended to remove internet commentary by persons acting in a private capacity from the authorisation requirements. (See page 47.)

Recommendation 2

The Commission **recommends** that clause 7(3)(c)(i) and (ii) of Schedule 4 of the Electoral Act be amended to delete the word “all” to ensure that the scrutiny rules follow accepted Hare-Clark procedures. (See page 54.)

Recommendation 3

The Commission **recommends** that the requirement for reporting of gifts received of \$1000 or more within 7 days of their receipt during the expenditure period (from 1 January in an election year until polling day from 2016) be re-examined by the Assembly. (See page 63.)

Recommendation 4

The Commission **recommends** that the requirement for a federal election account be re-examined by the Assembly with a view to improving the workability of section 205I(4) of the Electoral Act. (See page 63.)

Recommendation 5

The Commission **recommends** that the need for political participants to hold an ACT election account with a financial institution be re-examined by the Assembly. (See page 64.)

Recommendation 6

The Commission **recommends** that either section 222(1) be amended to cap anonymous donations at \$250, instead of \$1,000, or section 216 be amended to raise the threshold for small anonymous gifts from \$250 to \$1,000. (See page 64.)

Recommendation 7

The Commission **recommends** that use of the phrase “small anonymous donations” be removed from the Electoral Act and replaced with the phrase “anonymous donations”. (See page 64.)

Recommendation 8

The Commission **recommends** that section 205I(4) of the Electoral Act be amended to provide that it does not require anonymous donations to be paid into a federal election account. (See page 65.)

Recommendation 9

The Commission **recommends** that the reference to section 220 in the definition of “disclosure day” in relation to third-party campaigners in section 201(2)(c) of the Electoral Act be removed. (See page 65.)

Recommendation 10

The Commission **recommends** that the definition of third-party campaigner in section 198 of the Electoral Act be amended to replace the reference to “more than \$1,000” with “\$1,000 or more”. (See page 65.)

Recommendation 11

The Commission **recommends** that the definition of third-party campaigner in section 198 of the Electoral Act be amended to exclude from the definition government agencies from any Australian government. (See page 65.)

Recommendation 12

The Commission **recommends** that section 203 of the Electoral Act be amended to make it clear that only one reporting agent can be appointed at any one time for the same entity, and that the appointment of an agent automatically cancels the appointment of any previously appointed agent. (See page 67.)

Recommendation 13

The Commission **recommends** that the Electoral Act be amended to make reporting agents, where appointed, responsible for the lodgement of all disclosure returns by parties, MLAs and candidates. (See page 67.)

Recommendation 14

The Commission **recommends** that section 215G(1)(b) of the Electoral Act be amended to replace “local election” with “local government election”. (See page 67.)

Recommendation 15

The Commission **recommends** that the penalty notice fine for failing to vote at ACT Legislative Assembly elections should be increased. (See page 70.)

Key facts about the 2012 election

The eighth general election for 17 Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly was held on 20 October 2012.

Unlike most State and federal elections, there are no writs issued to commence an ACT election. The legislative basis for the timing of ACT elections is contained in section 100 of the Electoral Act 1992, which provides that a general election of the ACT Legislative Assembly must be held on the third Saturday in October in the fourth year after the year in which the last election was held. The official "pre-election period" commences 36 days before polling day.

Key dates for the 2012 election are shown in the following table.

Table 1 - Key election dates

Event	Date
Last day to lodge applications for party registration	30 June 2012
Close of register of political parties	13 September 2012
Pre-election period commenced and nominations opened	14 September 2012
Rolls closed	21 September 2012 (8 pm)
Nominations closed	26 September 2012 (12 noon)
Nominations declared and ballot paper order determined	27 September 2012 (12 noon)
Pre-poll voting commenced	2 October 2012
Pre-poll voting concluded	19 October 2012 (8 pm)
Polling day	20 October 2012 (8 am – 6 pm)
Last day for receipt of postal votes	26 October 2012
Election result announced	27 October 2012
Declaration of the poll	31 October 2012
Legislative Assembly formed	6 November 2012

The Register of Political Parties closed on 13 September 2012. Nine parties were registered on that date. Seven of these parties contested the election. Two parties, Pangallo Independents Party and The Community Alliance Party, did not contest the election. The following table shows the registered parties eligible to contest the election.

Table 2 – Registered political parties eligible to contest the 2012 election

Registered party	Registered abbreviation	Abbreviation used in this report
Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch)	ACT Labor	ALP
Australian Motorist Party	A.M.P.	AMP
Bullet Train for Canberra		BTFC
Liberal Democratic Party	Liberal Democrats	LDP
Liberal Party of Australia (A.C.T. Division)	Canberra Liberals	CL
Marion Lê Social Justice Party		MLSJP
Pangallo Independents Party	Pangallo Independents	(no candidates)
The ACT Greens	The Greens	Greens
The Community Alliance Party (ACT)	Community Alliance	(no candidates)

A total of 74 candidates contested the 2012 election. The following table sets out the numbers of candidates nominated for each party for each electorate and the ACT.

Table 3 – Candidates nominated by party and electorate

Group	Brindabella	Ginninderra	Molonglo	Total
ALP	5	5	7	17
AMP	2	2	2	6
BTFC	2	2	2	6
CL	5	5	7	17
Greens	3	3	4	10
LDP		2	2	4
MLSJP		5		5
Others	3	4	2	9
Total	20	28	26	74

The following 5 tables summarise the count of first preference votes for each electorate and the ACT.

Table 4 – Summary of first preference votes by electorate/ACT total

Party / Group	Brindabella		Ginninderra		Molonglo		Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
ALP	22665	35.66%	26354	39.88%	36972	40.39%	85991	38.88%
AMP	2488	3.91%	4794	7.26%	1897	2.07%	9179	4.15%
BTFC	2395	3.77%	2358	3.57%	4111	4.49%	8864	4.01%
CL	29496	46.41%	22275	33.71%	34261	37.43%	86032	38.90%
GREENS	5032	7.92%	6676	10.10%	12065	13.18%	23773	10.75%
LDP	0	0.00%	1213	1.84%	1127	1.23%	2340	1.06%
MLSJP	0	0.00%	940	1.42%	0	0.00%	940	0.43%
Other	1486	2.34%	1466	2.22%	1101	1.20%	4053	1.83%
Formal	63562	96.03%	66076	96.26%	91534	97.08%	221172	96.53%
Informal	2631	3.97%	2569	3.74%	2753	2.92%	7953	3.47%
Total	66193	100.0%	68645	100.0%	94287	100.0%	229125	100.0%
Enrolment	72368		76140		108194		256702	
Total as % of enrolment	91.47%		90.16%		87.15%		89.26%	

Table 5 – Summary of first preference votes by party/vote type: ACT total

Party/ Group	MLAs elected	Ordinary votes		Postal votes		Pre-poll votes		Declaration votes		Total votes	
ALP	8	59713	39.59%	3495	36.22%	22473	37.54%	310	36.60%	85991	38.88%
AMP	0	6454	4.28%	229	2.37%	2427	4.05%	69	8.15%	9179	4.15%
BTFC	0	6141	4.07%	451	4.67%	2226	3.72%	46	5.43%	8864	4.01%
CL	8	57181	37.91%	4242	43.96%	24323	40.63%	286	33.77%	86032	38.90%
Greens	1	16350	10.84%	962	9.97%	6360	10.62%	101	11.92%	23773	10.75%
LDP	0	1419	0.94%	68	0.70%	839	1.40%	14	1.65%	2340	1.06%
MLSJP	0	684	0.45%	29	0.30%	224	0.37%	3	0.35%	940	0.43%
Other	0	2872	1.90%	173	1.79%	990	1.65%	18	2.13%	4053	1.83%
Formal		150814	96.23%	9649	97.87%	59862	97.08%	847	96.03%	221172	96.53%
Informal		5910	3.77%	210	2.13%	1798	2.92%	35	3.97%	7953	3.47%
Total	17	156724	100.0%	9859	100.0%	61660	100.0%	882	100.0%	229125	100.0%
Total as % of votes		68.40%		4.30%		26.91%		0.38%		100.0%	

Table 6 – Summary of first preference votes by party/vote type: Brindabella

Party / Group	MLAs elected	Ordinary votes		Postal votes		Pre-poll votes		Declaration votes		Total votes	
ALP	2	15735	36.28%	744	32.49%	6104	34.63%	82	30.15%	22665	35.66%
AMP		1790	4.13%	47	2.05%	629	3.57%	22	8.09%	2488	3.91%
BTFC		1638	3.78%	110	4.80%	635	3.60%	12	4.41%	2395	3.77%
CL	3	19726	45.48%	1148	50.13%	8495	48.20%	127	46.69%	29496	46.41%
Greens		3445	7.94%	189	8.25%	1372	7.78%	26	9.56%	5032	7.92%
Other		1040	2.40%	52	2.27%	391	2.22%	3	1.10%	1486	2.34%
Formal		43374	95.70%	2290	97.70%	17626	96.63%	272	95.44%	63562	96.03%
Informal		1950	4.30%	54	2.30%	614	3.37%	13	4.56%	2631	3.97%
Total	5	45324		100.0%		2344		100.0%		18240	
Total as % of votes			68.47%		3.54%		27.56%		0.43%		100.0%

Table 7 – Summary of first preference votes by party/vote type: Ginninderra

Party/ Group	MLAs elected	Ordinary votes		Postal votes		Pre-poll votes		Declaration votes		Total votes	
ALP	3	18394	40.63%	1016	37.01%	6859	38.42%	85	40.67%	26354	39.88%
AMP		3382	7.47%	114	4.15%	1261	7.06%	37	17.70%	4794	7.26%
BTFC		1627	3.59%	121	4.41%	597	3.34%	13	6.22%	2358	3.57%
CL	2	14858	32.82%	1101	40.11%	6278	35.16%	38	18.18%	22275	33.71%
Greens		4480	9.90%	278	10.13%	1898	10.63%	20	9.57%	6676	10.10%
LDP		755	1.67%	31	1.13%	422	2.36%	5	2.39%	1213	1.84%
MLSJP		684	1.51%	29	1.06%	224	1.25%	3	1.44%	940	1.42%
Other		1088	2.40%	55	2.00%	315	1.76%	8	3.83%	1466	2.22%
Greens	1	6263	13.9%	340	13.6%	1709	14.0%	38	15.7%	8350	13.9%
Other		3912	8.7%	231	9.2%	1158	9.5%	15	6.2%	5316	8.9%
Formal		45268	95.86%	2745	97.83%	17854	97.02%	209	96.76%	66076	96.26%
Informal		1953	4.14%	61	2.17%	548	2.98%	7	3.24%	2569	3.74%
Total	5	47221	100.0%	2806	100.0%	18402	100.0%	216	100.0%	68645	100.0%
Total as % of votes			68.79%		4.09		26.81%		0.31%		100.0%

Table 8 – Summary of first preference votes by party/vote type: Molonglo

Party/ Group	MLAs elected	Ordinary votes		Postal votes		Pre-poll votes		Declaration votes		Total votes	
ALP	3	25584	41.15%	1735	37.60%	9510	39.00%	143	39.07%	36972	40.39%
AMP		1282	2.06%	68	1.47%	537	2.20%	10	2.73%	1897	2.07%
BTFC		2876	4.63%	220	4.77%	994	4.08%	21	5.74%	4111	4.49%
CL	1	22597	36.35%	1993	43.19%	9550	39.17%	121	33.06%	34261	37.43%
Greens	1	8425	13.55%	495	10.73%	3090	12.67%	55	15.03%	12065	13.18%
LDP		664	1.07%	37	0.80%	417	1.71%	9	2.46%	1127	1.23%
Other		744	1.20%	66	1.43%	284	1.16%	7	1.91%	1101	1.20%
Formal		62172	96.87%	4614	97.98%	24382	97.46%	366	96.06%	91534	97.08%
Informal		2007	3.13%	95	2.02%	636	2.54%	15	3.94%	2753	2.92%
Total	7	64179	100.0%	4709	100.0%	25018	100.0%	381	100.0%	94287	100.0%
Total as % of votes			68.07%		4.99%		26.53%		0.40%		100.0%

Legislative changes made since the 2008 election

Several changes were made to the electoral legislation after the 2008 ACT election. These included changes to ACT legislation and to Commonwealth legislation that impacts on ACT electoral matters. This section describes these changes in chronological order.

The *ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Legislation Amendment Act 2008 (No 2)* made amendments to the Electoral Act to replace references to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal with references to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and consequential amendments reflecting the revised review and appeals process for the ACT. The amendments took effect on 2 February 2009.

An amendment to the *Electoral Regulation 1993* was made on 17 October 2009 to reduce the amount of information required to be provided by an associated entity in its annual returns under section 231 of the Electoral Act by excluding the requirement for disclosure of the names and addresses of members where the membership fee of the entity is less than \$50 per financial year. This amendment was repealed on 1 July 2012 as a consequence of amendments made by the *Electoral Amendment Act 2012*.

The *Surveyors Amendment Act 2010* made amendments to the Electoral Act by replacing references to the chief surveyor with references to the surveyor-general. The amendments took effect on 3 March 2010.

The Commonwealth Parliament passed 2 electoral related Acts in June 2010 which included provisions that have a direct impact on ACT electors. These 2 Acts are:

- ◇ *The Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Pre-poll Voting and other Measures) Act 2010* (the Pre-poll Act); and
- ◇ *The Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Modernisation and other Measures) Act 2010* (the Modernisation Act).

The provisions that impact on ACT electors took effect in July 2010.

The Pre-poll Act includes a provision that allows for the on-line update of enrolment by electors who are currently enrolled and need to change their enrolled address. This provision automatically applies to electors enrolling for ACT Legislative assembly elections.

The Modernisation Act includes a provision that allows for the provisional enrolment of 16 year olds (who will not be able to vote until they turn 18). This provision also automatically applies to ACT provisional electors who enrol under the Commonwealth Electoral Act. *The Electoral Legislation Amendment Act 2012*, details of which are described below, includes a provision that amends the ACT Electoral Act to ensure the terminology used for provisional enrolment in the 2 Acts is consistent.

The *Liquor (Consequential Amendments) Act 2010* was passed by the Assembly on 28 October 2010 and came into effect on 1 December 2010. The Act made amendments to the Electoral Act by replacing references to the *Liquor Act 1975* with references to the *Liquor Act 2010*.

The *Administrative (One ACT Public Service Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2011* was passed by the Assembly on 23 June 2011 and took effect from 1 July 2011. The Act made amendments to the Electoral Act and to the *Electoral Regulation 1993* by replacing references to chief executive with references to director-general. It also made amendments to the *Electoral Regulation 1993* by replacing references to the Treasury with references to the Treasury Directorate.

The *Statute Law Amendment Act 2011* (No 2) was passed by the Assembly on 18 August 2011 and came into effect on 21 September 2011. This Act updated various sections in the Electoral Act to make a range of technical amendments, including amendments to update language in line with current legislative drafting practice, and amendments resulting from recent changes to the *Legislation Act 2001*.

The *Statute Law Amendment Act 2011* (No 3) was passed by the Assembly on 17 November 2011 and came into effect on 12 December 2011. This Act updated 2 sections in the Electoral Act to make technical amendments to update language in line with current legislative drafting practice.

The *Electoral Legislation Amendment Act 2012* was passed by the Assembly on 16 February 2012 and came into effect on 29 February 2012. This Act amended the Electoral Act to:

- ◇ Lower the age of entitlement to provisionally enrol to vote from 17 years old to 16 years old, bringing the ACT into line with recent changes to Commonwealth entitlements (the requirement that an elector be 18 years old before they can vote is not affected);
- ◇ Provide for the return of a candidate's deposit to the person who paid it, or to a person authorised in writing by the person who paid it;
- ◇ Provide that the certified list of electors used in polling places contain the year of birth and gender of each elector, to assist in correctly identifying electors as they vote, and provide that the extract of the certified list of electors provided to candidates will not contain the year of birth and gender of electors in order to protect their privacy;
- ◇ Allow the Electoral Commissioner to provide the extract of the certified list of electors to candidates in electronic form on request (previously only printed copies were provided);
- ◇ Remove the requirement for a person to sign as witness when a voter is casting a postal vote; and
- ◇ Provide flexibility to the Electoral Commissioner as to where the word "declaration" is to be printed in relation to the words "ballot paper" on declaration ballot papers.

The Act also made consequential amendments to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008*, which applies various provisions of the Electoral Act to the conduct of elections for the Elected Body.

The amendments in this Act primarily arose from recommendations made by the Commission in its Report on the *ACT Legislative Assembly Election 2008*. Another amendment to lower the age of provisional enrolment arose from changes made in 2010 to the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

The *Statute Law Amendment Act 2012* was passed by the Assembly on 8 May 2012 and came into effect on 5 June 2012. This Act updated the dictionary in the Electoral Act to insert "Australian citizen" as a new term, and is consequential on the insertion of a definition of the term in the Legislation Act. This was a technical amendment to update language in line with current legislative drafting practice.

The *Electoral Amendment Act 2012* was passed by the Assembly on 10 May 2012. The changes took effect from 1 July 2012. The Act gives partial effect to the ACT Government Response to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety's report, *A Review of Campaign Financing Laws in the ACT*. The Act provides for a range of amendments to the election funding and disclosure provisions in the Electoral Act, including:

- ◇ Introducing limits on the amount of gifts that may be received for use in ACT election campaigns (\$10,000 per donor per financial year);
- ◇ Introducing limits on the amount of electoral expenditure that may be incurred on ACT election campaigns (\$60,000 per candidate, non-party MLA or third-party campaigner, with parties standing 17 or more candidates only permitted to spend up to \$1,020,000 each);
- ◇ Introducing ACT election bank accounts, that must be kept by those incurring electoral expenditure in ACT election campaigns;
- ◇ Only permitting individual persons on the ACT electoral roll to make gifts to parties, MLAs and candidates for ACT election purposes, with any gifts received from non-ACT electors required to be deposited in a federal election account;
- ◇ Increasing the amount of election funding available to eligible parties and non-party candidates to \$2.00 per formal vote (indexed by CPI from 2013);
- ◇ Introducing administrative funding for parties with representation in the Assembly of \$20,000 per MLA per year (indexed by CPI from 2013);
- ◇ Bringing forward the deadline for lodgement of annual and election financial disclosure returns (with annual returns due by 31 July and most election returns due 60 days after polling day);
- ◇ Bringing forward the date of publication by the Commissioner of annual and election financial disclosure returns (with annual returns due to be published at the beginning of September and election returns due to be published from the beginning of February after polling day);
- ◇ Introducing additional reporting of gifts received, with gifts of \$1,000 or more received in an election year to be disclosed within 7 days of receipt, and gifts of \$1,000 or more received in non-election years to be disclosed within 30 days of receipt;
- ◇ Introducing a limit on the amount of small anonymous gifts that may be received of \$25,000 per party, MLA or candidate per year;
- ◇ New definitions for:
 - the disclosure period;
 - electoral expenditure;
 - gifts; and
 - volunteer labour; and

- ◇ Introducing definitions for:
 - capped expenditure period;
 - financial representative;
 - fundraising contributions;
 - fundraising events;
 - party grouping;
 - prospective candidate; and
 - third party campaigner.

The Commonwealth Parliament passed 2 electoral related Acts in June 2012 which included provisions that have a direct impact on ACT electors. These 2 Acts, that amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, are:

- ◇ The *Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Protecting Elector Participation) Act 2012* (the Protecting Participation Act); and
- ◇ The *Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Maintaining Address) Act 2012* (the Maintaining Address Act).

Both of these Acts took effect on 25 July 2012.

The Protecting Participation Act provisions that impact on ACT electors will:

- ◇ Allow the Australian Electoral Commissioner to directly enrol a person if the Commissioner is satisfied that the person has met certain criteria;
- ◇ Require the person to be notified of the Commissioner's intention to enrol them and give the elector the opportunity to object to the enrolment; and
- ◇ Allow the Commissioner to enrol certain persons who have cast declaration votes and have been removed from the roll.

The Maintaining Address Act provisions that impact on ACT electors will:

- ◇ Allow the Australian Electoral Commissioner to update an elector's enrolled address following receipt and analysis of reliable and current data sources from outside the Australian Electoral Commission;
- ◇ Require an elector to be notified of the Commissioner's intention to enrol them at a new address and give the elector the opportunity to object to the change; and
- ◇ Enable objection action to be discontinued and the elector's enrolled address to be updated so that the elector is not removed from the electoral roll.

Innovative use of information and communications technology

Elections ACT has led Australia in the adoption of many electoral information and communications technology (ICT) innovations, aimed at better, faster electoral services to the ACT community.

An expanded range of ICT systems was used at the 2012 election, building upon and adding to systems used at the preceding election. In preparation for the 2012 election, the Commission received capital funding of \$1.373 million over the 4 years from 2009/2010 to 2012/2013 to enable the upgrade of existing ICT systems and the development of new systems.

These included the use of electronic scanning of handwritten preferences on paper ballots, the introduction of electronic OIC returns including electronic ballot paper reconciliation, electronic results publication direct from the polling place onto the electronic tally room and whole of jurisdiction electoral roll mark-off involving transmission of marks across a 3G network to a central database and back out to all units in the ACT.

The 2012 election also saw the extension of electronic voting to around 1 in 4 of all ACT voters, the continued use of on-line applications for postal votes, the introduction of an on-line casual work application including an on-line form for recording salary and tax information and the introduction of a fully web-based polling place training system. As has been the case in all past ACT Legislative Assembly elections, ICT was also used extensively in back-office applications.

These innovations combined to provide electoral services to the highest number of ACT electors at any ACT election, with the result provided in the shortest time ever. The final result for the election was announced on Saturday, 27 October 2012, 7 days after polling day.

These various innovations are discussed further in this report under the appropriate subject area.

Elections ACT consulted with stakeholders through its Electronic Voting and Counting System Reference Group, consisting of representatives of political parties, MLAs and other special interest groups. The Commissioner convened this group during the lead-up to the 2012 election to consider the improvements made to the electronic voting and counting system and the ballot paper scanning system following the 2008 election. Reference Group members expressed satisfaction with all systems demonstrated and discussed.

In February 2010, the Electoral Commissioner formed the Elections ACT ICT Steering Committee in preparation for the 2012 ACT Legislative Assembly election. The Committee consisted of:

- ◇ The Electoral Commissioner;
- ◇ The Deputy Electoral Commissioner;
- ◇ The SSICT Program Office Manager and 2 further SSICT representatives;
- ◇ The JACS ICT Manager;
- ◇ The JACS Deputy Director General Justice; and
- ◇ The 2 dedicated project managers from within Elections ACT.

This Committee was tasked with examining whether the proposed Elections ACT ICT business system upgrades and developments were fit for purpose; examining the risks of adopting each of the proposed ICT business systems; advising the Commission on whether the Committee supported the use of the proposed ICT systems; and providing tangible assistance wherever appropriate. The Committee met regularly from 2010 until November 2012.

The Committee was satisfied that the systems being used for the election were fit for purpose and that they should be deployed for use.

The ACT Government's in-house ICT service provider, Shared Services ICT (SSICT), provided Elections ACT with assistance during the lead-up to the 2012 election, including installation of equipment in the Elections ACT head office and the tally room.

In March 2013 Elections ACT was awarded an Innovation Award by the Director-General of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate in recognition of the ICT innovations deployed at the 2012 election.

Electoral roll

The electoral roll is one of the keystones of the election process. An accurate and up-to-date electoral roll is required to facilitate the franchise and to ensure the integrity of the election. In the ACT, as in all other Australian States and Territories, the electoral roll is jointly maintained with the Australian Electoral Commission under a formal joint roll arrangement.

The Australian electoral roll is kept up-to-date by encouraging eligible citizens to enrol using a variety of strategies, including direct mail, field reviews of habitations and making electoral enrolment forms widely available, for example, at post offices and on the internet. However, in the lead-up to the 2012 ACT election, the accuracy of the roll ultimately depended on eligible citizens completing and signing a hardcopy electoral enrolment form when they first become eligible to enrol, and again every time they move address thereafter, or by changing their address details on-line. (After the 2012 ACT election, the Commonwealth Electoral Act was amended to allow the Australian Electoral Commission to directly enrol eligible persons using trusted data sources.)

Enrolment stimulation activities

While electoral authorities strive to maintain an accurate electoral roll at all times, it is well documented that many people defer bringing their enrolment up to date until an election is imminent. In recognition of this tendency, electoral authorities place special emphasis on encouraging eligible citizens to enrol in the lead-up to the close of the roll for a general election.

The following enrolment stimulation activities were used in the lead-up to the 2012 ACT election:

- ◇ The Elections ACT 2012 election information and advertising campaign;
- ◇ Fieldwork in July and August 2012 targeted at areas of high population growth and turnover but relatively low enrolment;
- ◇ Establishing AEC information stalls during August and September 2012 in Garema Place in Civic;
- ◇ Standard monthly mail review during February to August 2012; and
- ◇ Sending birthday correspondence to 17 and 18 year olds on a weekly basis inviting them to enrol.

Close of rolls

By the close of the rolls on 21 September 2012 there were 256,702 electors enrolled to vote for the 2012 election. The following table compares the number of electors enrolled at the last 4 elections.

Table 9 – Close of rolls enrolment by electorate

Electorate	2001	2004	2008	2012
Brindabella	64,020	65,279	71,394	72,368
Ginninderra	63,267	65,271	68,358	76,140
Molonglo	91,328	95,548	103,719	108,194
Total	218,615	226,098	243,471	256,702

Measuring participation on the electoral roll

The proportion of eligible citizens enrolled to vote in the ACT and in Australia generally appears to be in decline, despite the fact that enrolment is compulsory.

The following table shows the numbers of electors enrolled by age group at the 2012 and 2008 elections and the estimated eligible proportion of each age group enrolled.

Table 10 – Eligible voters by age group and estimated percentage of those eligible – 2008 and 2012 elections

Age	2008		2012	
	Number enrolled	% of estimated entitled to enrol (see note 1)	Number enrolled	% of estimated entitled to enrol (see note 1)
18 (see note 2)	3850	79.9%	3,435	67.3%
19	4,453	85.4%	3,165	56.0%
20-24	24,078	91.1%	23,499	79.8%
25-29	24,844	94.3%	26,102	88.7%
30-34	23,249	97.4%	25,456	96.1%
35-39	25,030	98.4%	24,393	93.6%
40-44	22,829	98.4%	25,062	98.4%
45-49	23,618	98.3%	22,920	93.3%
50-54	21,819	100.0%	23,273	97.8%
55-59	20,418	101.2%	20,497	98.2%
60-64	16,647	100.7%	18,619	99.1%
65-69	10,716	100.3%	14,229	110.4%
70+	21,920	99.6%	26,052	104.6%
Total	243,471	97.1%	256,702	93.9%

Note 1: The percentages in the above table need to be treated with caution as they are based on various assumptions about residency and eligibility. The estimates shown are post-censal estimates based on 2006 and 2011 census data updated by birth and death registrations, and estimated interstate and overseas migration. The fact that some age groups show participation rates greater than 100% is likely to be due to the preliminary nature of the estimates, and because the AEC delays the removal of people from the roll, where it has information that people may have left their enrolled address, pending further investigation of these enrolments.

Note 2: This row includes 267 17 year old electors who turned 18 after the close of rolls and on or before polling day in 2012 (266 in 2008), and were therefore entitled to vote.

The estimated number of electors on the roll compared to the estimated number entitled was 93.9% at the close of rolls for the 2012 election. This compares to an estimate of 97.1% at the 2008 election. The lower level of enrolment is particularly evident in the age groups up to age 29. The results for those age groups conform with the nation-wide trend for younger people, and in particular 18 and 19 year olds, to be significantly under-enrolled.

While enrolment participation rates have declined in the ACT, by comparison with all other Australian States and the Northern Territory, the ACT has tended to out-perform the other jurisdictions. Looking at the close of rolls for the August 2010 federal election, the ACT had the highest enrolment participation rate of all the States and Territories. At that time, it is estimated that the enrolment participation rate in the ACT was 95.7%, compared to a national average of 90.9%. The next highest participation rate was 95.1% in Tasmania, while the lowest was 76.2% in the Northern Territory.

While the proportion of eligible citizens enrolled in the ACT at the time of the 2012 ACT election was lower than at the 2010 federal election, at September 2012 it was still higher than for any other State or Territory.

This apparent decline in the proportion of eligible citizens enrolling appears to be accompanied by a decline in enrolled electors turning out to vote in the ACT.

The traditional method of measuring voter participation has been to express voter turnout as a percentage of enrolment. However, the result thereby obtained can be influenced by the completeness and accuracy of the electoral roll. There are 2 further ways of measuring performance relating to the completeness of the roll and voter turnout that were used at the 2008 election, and are again used for 2012. Each provides another perspective on the state of the roll and the level of voter turnout, and all 3 measures are now taken together.

The 2 additional measures use as a base the eligible elector population (EEP). The EEP is calculated every quarter by the Australian Electoral Commission, using base data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and applying a method developed by the AEC in consultation with the ABS. The EEP is an estimate of the number of persons who are eligible to be enrolled at a particular point in time, and is calculated using post-censal estimates based on the latest census data updated by birth and death registrations, and estimated interstate and overseas migration.

The first additional performance measure expresses enrolment as a percentage of the EEP. This measure provides an assessment of the effectiveness of the roll maintenance activities carried out by the AEC.

The second additional performance measure expresses voter turnout as a percentage of the EEP at polling day. This measure provides an assessment of the effectiveness of the Commission at encouraging electors to vote, regardless of the state of the accuracy of the electoral roll. Arguably, this is a better measure of the Commission's performance than the traditional measure, which depends in part on the performance of the AEC in maintaining the roll and the point in time when the ACT election falls in the federal election cycle.

These 2 measures are used in conjunction with the traditional measure, expressing voter turnout as a percentage of enrolment (electors eligible to vote) at polling day. As this measure is the traditional measure of election turnout, it still remains a valid method of comparing performance across time and across jurisdictions.

The following table provides the calculation of the 3 measures at the 2004, 2008 and 2012 elections.

Table 11 – Measures of enrolment and voter turnout at 2004, 2008 and 2012 elections

Election	Estimated eligible population (EEP) (see note 1)	Number enrolled	% number enrolled to EEP	Voter turnout	% voter turnout to EEP	% voter turnout to number enrolled
2004	242,042	226,098	93.4%	209,749	86.7%	92.8%
2008	250,743	243,471	97.1%	220,019	87.7%	90.4%
2012	273,449	256,702	93.9%	229,125	83.9%	89.3%

Note 1: The estimates of the eligible population (EEP) may alter following the rebasing of the estimates by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. A decrease in the EEP will be reflected as an increase in the participation rate, and vice versa. The ABS notified the AEC of a downwards rebase of the EEP after 30 June 2012 that was applied for the first time in March 2013. While it is not precisely known what the impact of this rebase would have been on the EEP for the 2012 election (as the AEC does not recalculate EEP back in time), the estimated effect that the rebase had on the participation rate between December 2012 and March 2013 (to increase the participation rate by about 1.4 percentage points) would have been reflected at the 2012 election as an EEP of about 269,362, rather than an EEP of 273,449, as estimated at the time of the election. If this revised EEP is a more accurate reflection of the eligible population at that time, then the percentage of the number enrolled to EEP would be 95.3% rather than 93.9%, and the percentage voter turnout to EEP would be 85.1% rather than 83.9%.

This table shows that participation rates improved between the 2004 and 2008 elections, and that participation rates declined again in 2012.

The reasons for this decline would appear to be complex. As declining participation rates are apparent across all Australian jurisdictions, and as the ACT leads the country with enrolment participation, it would appear that this is not a phenomenon isolated to the ACT.

The Commission will monitor research into elector participation in Australia as it prepares for the 2016 election. In particular, it will examine the impact that the AEC's new direct enrolment processes have on enrolment and voting participation rates at the forthcoming federal and State elections.

Redistribution of electoral boundaries

A redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries occurs after every general election. The most recent redistribution was finalised in 2011.

Detailed information on the redistribution can be found in the Augmented Commission's *Redistribution Report: ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2011*, available on the Elections ACT website. The key change made at this redistribution was the transfer of the Gungahlin suburbs of Crace and Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra.

The following table shows the projected 2012 election enrolment numbers and variations from quota estimated at the time of the redistribution, and the actual results as at the close of rolls for the 2012 election.

This table indicates that the redistribution achieved the desired aim of ensuring that the enrolment in each electorate was within +/-5% at the time of the election.

Table 12 – 2012 election actual enrolment compared to redistribution projected enrolment

Estimated enrolment for polling day 2012 used during 2011 redistribution				Actual results for polling day 2012		
Electorate	Projected enrolment at redistribution	Projected quota	Projected variation from quota	Actual enrolment at election	Actual quota	Actual variation from quota
Brindabella	72,717	75,343	-3.49%	72,368	75,500	-4.15%
Ginninderra	75,418	75,343	0.10%	76,140	75,500	0.85%
Molonglo	108,033	105,480	2.42%	108,194	105,700	2.36%
Total	256,168			256,702		

Party registration

There were 9 political parties registered for the 2012 election. Of these, all but 2 (Pangallo Independents Party and The Community Alliance Party (ACT)) nominated candidates for the election. The following table lists those parties on the ACT Register of Political Parties at the start of the pre-election period for the 2012 election.

Table 13 – Parties registered for the 2012 election

Party name	Party abbreviation
Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch)	Australian Labor Party
Australian Motorist Party	A.M.P.
Bullet Train for Canberra	
Liberal Democratic Party	Liberal Democrats
Liberal Party of Australia (A.C.T. Division)	Canberra Liberals
Marion Lê Social Justice Party	
Pangallo Independents Party	Pangallo Independents
The ACT Greens	The Greens
The Community Alliance Party (ACT)	Community Alliance

New party registrations between the 2008 and 2012 elections

In May 2004 the Electoral Act was amended to provide that applications to register a political party, or to change a party's registered name or abbreviation, had to be lodged by 30 June in an election year in order to apply at the election. This provision has now applied at the 2004, 2008 and 2012 elections. It has appeared to have served the intended purpose of allowing sufficient time for proper consideration to be given to applications for registration, and any objections to those applications, before the close of the Register of Political Parties prior to the commencement of the pre-election period in September in an election year.

Two political parties were added to the Register of Political Parties between the 2008 and 2012 elections. Both parties applied for registration in 2012, before the 1 July 2012 cut-off. Bullet Train for Canberra lodged its application on 27 June 2012 and the Marion Lê Social Justice Party lodged its application at 5:09 pm on 29 June 2012.

A third political party, the Pirate Party (ACT), lodged an application for registration at 11.56 pm on 30 June 2012 (4 minutes before the midnight deadline for lodgement). The application subsequently lapsed because it was not accompanied by a list of at least 100 members who were on the ACT electoral roll. Extensive searches of the roll could only confirm 94 members who were enrolled.

There are several opportunities for public objections to applications to register a political party. Objections can be lodged upon public notification of an application for registration; a request for an internal review of a decision to register a party made by the Electoral Commissioner or the Commissioner's delegate can be made to the full Electoral Commission; and a review of a decision of the Commission can be sought before the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

There were no objections received to the applications for registration of either Bullet Train for Canberra or the Marion Lê Social Justice Party.

Changes to existing party names between the 2008 and 2012 elections

One change to the registered abbreviation of an existing registered party was made between the 2008 and 2012 elections.

The registered abbreviation for the Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch) was changed to ACT Labor (from Australian Labor Party) on 17 July 2012. The application for this change was received prior to the 30 June 2012 deadline for lodgement of applications.

There were no other changes to the names or abbreviations of existing registered parties.

Party registrations cancelled between the 2008 and 2012 elections

Nine registered parties contested the 2008 election. During the period between the 2008 and 2012 elections the registration of 2 of those parties was cancelled: the Richard Mulcahy Canberra Party and Free Range Canberra.

The Richard Mulcahy Canberra Party was deregistered at the request of the party on 20 November 2009. Free Range Canberra was deregistered at the request of the party on 5 February 2010.

Nomination of candidates

There were 74 candidates nominated for the 2012 election, compared to 86 in 2008. The following table provides a breakdown by gender and electorate.

Table 14 – Candidates by gender and electorate

Brindabella	Male	Female	Total
2012	16	4	20
2008	14	5	19
Ginninderra	Male	Female	Total
2012	17	11	28
2008	18	9	27
Molonglo	Male	Female	Total
2012	17	9	26
2008	28	12	40
ACT Total	Male	Female	Total
2012	50	24	74
2008	60	26	86

Section 113 of the Electoral Act was amended on 29 February 2012 to provide that the nomination deposit is to be returned to the person who paid it, or someone else authorised in writing by the person, if a candidate:

- ◇ Is elected;
- ◇ At the time when they are excluded from the poll under scrutiny, has votes equal to or exceeding 20% of the quota for election; or
- ◇ Has votes totalling 20% or more of the quota at any stage of the counting, although neither elected nor excluded.

Prior to the amendment a nomination deposit was returned to an eligible candidate, regardless of who may have paid the deposit. However, typically all nomination deposits for candidates of political parties are made as one payment by the campaign director, party secretary or registered officer on behalf of all candidates for that party. Accordingly, the nomination deposits for all candidates for the party are receipted as one amount.

The amendment was made on the recommendation of the Electoral Commission in its *Report on the ACT Legislative Assembly Election 2008*. The new arrangement for returning deposits appeared to work well in practice.

2012 election information / education campaign

The Commission undertook an extensive communication campaign leading up to the 2012 election. The campaign communicated several messages to ACT electors, including:

- ◇ Informing ACT electors that there would be an election for the ACT Legislative Assembly on 20 October 2012;
- ◇ Informing potential electors when and how to enrol before the electoral roll closed with special focus on the 18-25 year old age group;
- ◇ Informing electors which electorate they were enrolled in (emphasising the 2011 redistribution of electorate boundaries which transferred the suburbs of Crace and Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra);
- ◇ Ensuring the public was aware that voting is compulsory;
- ◇ Providing information about how to cast a valid and informed vote (including an explanation of the implications of preference choices, such as numbering only one box, numbering the number of boxes for which there are seats in the electorate, or giving preferences to as many candidates as the electors wish);
- ◇ Providing information about the physical requirements of the election, like where to vote, when to vote, what to do in special circumstances (including information on pre-poll voting, postal voting and voting at polling places on polling day);
- ◇ Informing voters of the 100 metre ban on political canvassing outside polling places; and
- ◇ Informing voters that electronic voting was available at pre-poll voting centres and equipping voters to use this method of voting.

Information was also provided to potential candidates and political parties to ensure they understood the requirements they needed to meet in order to actively participate in the election. As an alternative to printing handbooks and manuals, the Commission issued "e-lector" USB sticks to potential candidates, political parties and the media. These electronic information packs included a wide range of information including candidate and scrutineer manuals and electoral factsheets. This new way of distributing electoral information and advice was efficient, cost effective and well received by recipients.

The Commission worked closely with ACT Publishing Services to modernise the look and feel of the election information campaign by updating artwork and incorporating new branding and formatting for the 2012 election, whilst still maintaining the concept and message of the previous campaigns – 'Shaping Canberra's Future'. This creative partnership resulted in the successful development of several different icons which assisted electors to visually identify the Commission's 2012 election information campaign.

The information campaign included the following methods for engaging electors:

- ◇ Television, radio, newspaper and online advertising;
- ◇ Canberra Connect silver-screens in shopfronts;
- ◇ Media releases;
- ◇ Mail-outs of 2 information booklets to every household in the ACT;
- ◇ Bus shelter advertising;
- ◇ Establishing a contact centre with Canberra Connect;
- ◇ Elections ACT website;
- ◇ Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube;
- ◇ Providing targeted information for people with disabilities, those from culturally and linguistically diverse background and those from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community within the ACT; and
- ◇ School and community group programs.

The television, radio, newspaper and online advertising campaign focused on 3 phases. These phases were enrolment, postal and pre-poll voting; and voting formally. New advertisements for each phase were created and screened on television, aired on radio, and printed in various newspapers and magazines in the month leading up the election. Online ads appeared on a variety of websites through Google Search and Google Display as well as the Canberra Times Local News site, and were also targeted at Facebook pages of ACT residents over 18 years old. The TV advertisements were also screened in Canberra Connect Shop fronts on the silver-screen closed loop that ran continuously during the hours the shopfronts were in operation for approximately 6 weeks before the election.

In addition, relevant election information was included in the Canberra Connect call centre messages aired while callers were waiting on the phone to speak to an operator. The advertisements and messages were changed to coincide with the relevant phase of the election campaign.

Large format ads were displayed in bus shelters at various locations around Canberra. These ads targeted the same phases as other advertising.

The earliest election related media releases were issued in May 2012, setting out the deadline for applying to register new political parties. Over the following months the Commission worked to increase awareness of the election by briefing journalists and political participants, and by generating news stories in the media. The Commission recognises the important role played by the general media in assisting the Commission to provide factual information about the election.

The Commission's formal advertising campaign commenced with the first of 2 household deliveries. The first mail-out was an information pamphlet delivered to all households in September 2012. The core messages of this pamphlet were alerting electors to the need to update address details on the roll, or to enrol, before the close of rolls; arrangements for alternatives to voting on polling day; and the effect of the redistribution in 2011. These pamphlets were also placed in Canberra Connect shopfronts and MyWay Centres.

The second household delivery, in the form of a booklet, took place in the week commencing 8 October 2012. This corresponded to the second week of pre-poll voting and included the key messages of arrangements for voting for those who could not vote

at a polling place on polling day; how-to-vote using the electronic voting option; how to correctly mark a ballot paper; the location of pre-poll and polling day polling places; an explanation of Robson rotation of names on ballot papers; and the distribution of preferences. These booklets were also placed in Canberra Connect shopfronts and MyWay Centres.

A targeted mail-out to all households in Crace and Palmerston was also undertaken. This mail-out explained the electorate boundary changes and advised voters of the change to their electorate for the election.

The campaign concluded on polling day with a dedicated election insert in *The Canberra Times* featuring a double page advertisement carrying key messages and a list of polling places included.

Social Media

The Commission used social media for the first time in the lead-up to the 2012 election to engage voters, particularly those between the ages of 18-25. The social media tools used during the campaign included Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

To encourage users to access the Elections ACT Facebook page, Elections ACT launched a social media competition to win 1 of 2 electronic tablets by “liking” the Elections ACT Facebook page. To be eligible to participate, entrants had to be correctly enrolled in the ACT. The competition was supported with targeted advertising through Facebook and a poster campaign in ACT secondary colleges and high schools with Year 12 students. One of the winners was within the 18-25 year old age bracket and said that the competition encouraged him to enrol for this election. As a result of the exposure gained through this competition and the resulting media coverage, over 2,500 people “liked” the Elections ACT Facebook page, leading to a potential reach of over 100,000 users who may have seen Elections ACT material.

Market research exit polling conducted for the Commission at polling places indicated that around 28% of respondents recalled seeing Elections ACT social media material. The exit polling also indicated that around 6% of voters (mostly young people) rated the Elections ACT social media as their most useful information medium.

Public relations activities

A range of public relations activities was undertaken during the election campaign. These activities succeeded in generating positive coverage of the Commission’s election messages.

Public relations activities included:

- ◇ Issuing 27 media releases;
- ◇ Radio, television and newspaper interviews conducted by the Electoral Commissioner;
- ◇ Arranging photo and television opportunities in order to draw attention to aspects of the election, particularly voting by computer and the scanning of ballot papers; and
- ◇ Holding public events, including the declaration of the nominations and draw for ballot positions on the ballot papers, the election night Tally Room and the official declaration of the poll.

Canberra Connect Contact Centre

A call centre is an essential component of an election information campaign. The Commission contracted Canberra Connect to establish a contact centre team to answer simple enquiries related to the election. More complex enquiries were managed by Commission staff.

The dedicated contact centre team operated for 7 weeks prior to the election and for a week following. The Commission provided information in relation to a variety of inquiry areas which was incorporated into the Canberra Connect Knowledge Base. Training in customer contact skills was provided by Canberra Connect while the Commission provided training in 2012 election content.

Almost 7,000 calls were answered with the assistance of the Canberra Connect team. This is approximately 2,000 calls less than those received during the 2008 election. This reduction in calls could be a result of increased accessing of the Elections ACT website and dissemination of some information using social media.

An in-house team of Elections ACT staff also responded to email inquiries.

Activities aimed at people with special needs

A key component of the Commission's communication strategy was to assist people with special needs, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with vision or hearing impairment. The focus was to ensure people understood the compulsory nature of enrolment and voting, and how to validly vote at the election.

The Commission undertook a range of activities to encourage participation of members of the multicultural community. It:

- ◇ Analysed the language needs of the ACT multicultural community to identify the most appropriate language groups to target with information material (using ABS data, the Commission identified 12 languages to be used: Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Italian, Farsi, Vietnamese, Croatian, Greek, Spanish, Portuguese, Serbian and Lao);
- ◇ Employed and trained bilingual speakers in the targeted languages, where possible, to work in their language community in the 6 weeks prior to the election, educating voters on important aspects of the Legislative Assembly election;
- ◇ Provided printed electoral information in the targeted languages to be disseminated by the bilingual educators and through Radio CMS and the Elections ACT website;
- ◇ Inserted short articles targeting specific aspects of the election, such as the close of the electoral roll, in the ACT Multicultural e-News Bulletin published by the Office of Multicultural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (OMATSIA);
- ◇ Provided instruction screens at electronic voting terminals in twelve languages;
- ◇ Printed the Telephone Interpreter Service information panel on some Elections ACT publications, encouraging electors with limited English to make use of the service to assist with understanding electoral information; and
- ◇ Maintained a register of language capacity of all casual staff to assist with the recruitment of the bilingual educators.

The Commission also provided targeted information to members of the community as a way to encourage participation from people with special needs. It:

- ◇ Provided several articles with election information to community groups for inclusion in their newsletters, including the ACT Office for Ageing E-newsletter, the ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS) and the ACT Disability Advisory Council quarterly newsletter;
- ◇ Made alternative formats for printed publications available on request;
- ◇ Arranged for the Elections ACT election guide to be read on Radio 1RPH (radio for the print-handicapped) and for the guide to be included in the Canberra Blind Society's monthly audio newsletter, which is sent to members and placed in Canberra public libraries; and
- ◇ Disseminated the election guide, in an audio and print format, to Vision Australia and the Guide Dogs association.

The Commission, with the assistance of the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, also produced a pamphlet using an indigenous theme with key messages for distribution to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Posters with the same theme were displayed at communal venues of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

In recognition of the Commission's achievements with its information campaign for the 2012 ACT election, the Commission was presented with an ACT Multicultural Award in the Media category in November 2012.

Elections ACT website

The Commission made extensive use of its website **www.elections.act.gov.au** as a means of providing election information and services. In the lead-up to the election, large numbers of users accessed the list of polling places, the electronic postal vote application, information on electronic voting, answers to frequently asked questions, the election timetable, the electoral boundaries, the list of candidates and the fact sheet on the Hare-Clark system.

On and after polling day, most users accessed the on-line election results. Similar to the 2008 election results system, the 2012 virtual tally room allowed the media to access up to date election results through the Electoral Commission website rather than having to wait for the release of Commission issued media releases.

Statistics on website activity point to a high number of visits to the Commission's site for the election period.

Before the election period began, the number of page hits on the website averaged 883 per day. In September this increased to an average of 2,386 page hits per day. From the beginning of the official election period on 14 September, until the start of the final election week on 14 October, the average number of visitors to the site increased to an average of 4,612 visits per day. During the election week, from 15 October until 19 October, the average rose to 22,966 visits per day. The largest number of page hits – 90,347 – was recorded on election day. Usage remained high through October, averaging 13,144 per day.

Market Research

Market Attitude Research Services (MARS) was engaged to undertake an evaluation of voter satisfaction with the 2012 election polling place services (including electronic voting), voter knowledge of voting procedures, and an assessment of the impact of the public information program conducted by the Commission. Similar evaluations were conducted by MARS for the 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2008 elections.

Random intercept exit interviews were conducted on polling day with voters as they departed the polling place. Interviews were conducted with 505 voters across a random selection of 26 polling places, of which 6 were electronic voting places.

The key findings of the research were:

- ◇ When asked to rate their overall voting experience, 98% of voters expressed satisfaction, with 66% claiming to be very satisfied;
- ◇ Over 8 in 10 voters (85%) could recall seeing, hearing or reading material from the Elections ACT public information campaign and 76% of these voters advised that this information was useful;
- ◇ The strongest information campaign “reach” was achieved by the Elections ACT letterbox delivered material (with 71% of voters recalling received the material and 58% of voters reading it), followed by Elections ACT funded television advertisements (reaching 43% of voters);
- ◇ Of the other forms of publicity, radio advertisements reached 23% of voters, *Canberra Times* advertisements reached 17% of voters, bus stop posters reached 15% of voters and online ads reached 8% of voters;
- ◇ Around 3 in 10 (31%) voters accessed the Elections ACT website and most (90%) found it useful or very useful and successfully found the information they were seeking;
- ◇ Only 5 in 10 (49%) voters were aware of the “Robson rotation” method of printing ballot papers;
- ◇ Over 7 in 10 (74%) voters were aware that “how-to-vote” cards were unavailable within 100 metres of a polling place, while only 6% of voters found it a problem that how-to-vote cards were not available, mostly because they disagreed with the ban;
- ◇ Voter awareness of the name of their electorate was strong (84%), but voter awareness of the number of members to be elected in their electorate was lower (58%);
- ◇ For the 2012 ACT election over 96 in 100 voters expressed satisfaction with:
 - polling place staff helpfulness;
 - polling place staff efficiency; and
 - polling place staff friendliness;
- ◇ With regard to queuing at polling places, 98% of voters did not experience difficulty, with only 2% of voters stating that their queue was unacceptably long; and
- ◇ Around 8 in 10 voters surveyed at an electronic voting polling place actually voted using electronic voting and of these voters, over 88% rated this system easy to use, fast and efficient.

Detailed findings from the research can be found at **Appendix 2** from page 82.

Voting

At the 2012 election, 229,125 electors cast votes that were admitted to the scrutiny, a turnout of 89.3%. This turnout was 1.1% lower than for the 2008 election (90.4%). However, this was the highest absolute number of votes taken in an ACT Legislative Assembly election (compared to 220,019 in 2008). The turnout of voters is discussed above in the context of the state of the electoral roll under **Electoral roll** on page 30.

The percentage of voters who voted before polling day was around 31% of all votes cast at the 2012 election. Pre-poll votes accounted for 26.9% of all votes and postal votes accounted for 4.3%. At the 2008 election 20.3% of votes were pre-poll and 4.4% were postal votes. The following table shows the percentage of ordinary, pre-poll and postal votes for each ACT election since 1995.

Table 15 – Percentage of votes cast by vote type

	Ordinary %	Postal %	Pre-poll %	Declaration %	Total %	Turnout %
1995	86.1	2.4	10.6	0.9	100	89.5
1998	84.1	2.8	12.2	1.0	100	91.8
2001	83.8	3.2	12.4	0.6	100	90.9
2004	81.4	3.1	14.7	0.9	100	92.8
2008	75.0	4.4	20.3	0.4	100	90.4
2012	68.4	4.3	26.9	0.4	100	89.3

Details of numbers of votes cast by vote type and electorate are in Tables 5-8.

Electronic Legislative Assembly Polling Place System - eLAPPS

Electronic rolls for polling

The 2008 ACT election saw the introduction of electronic rolls in polling places for searching and marking the names of voters from the certified list of electors. These electronic rolls took the form of hand held personal digital assistants, or PDAs. In 2012, Elections ACT built upon the success of this system by broadening its scope, with the aim of creating an electronic polling place system to replace as much of the polling place's managerial paperwork as possible, as well as maintaining and improving upon the electronic roll functionality. eLAPPS, the Electronic Legislative Assembly Polling Place System, was the result.

eLAPPS was based on netbook computers, on loan from the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. Each polling place received one netbook computer designated as the Officer In Charge's (OIC's) machine (connected to the main database via 3G) and then one netbook computer for each issuing point in that polling place, to serve as an electronic certified list (connected to the OIC's machine via Wi-Fi). In total over 600 netbooks were in use on election day. Each netbook computer contained an encrypted local copy of the electoral roll, which served as a safeguard against 3G network failure. Each polling place was equipped with a small 3G travel router (used for connecting issuing point computers to the OIC computer and connecting the OIC computer to the internet) and a USB dongle to house the 3G SIM card. Centrally the main database was housed in a Server environment with redundancy and security maintained and supported by the vendors of eLAPPS, F1 Solutions.

In most cases polling places were supplied with sufficient netbooks to cater for the maximum number of issuing points at that polling place, as well as a back-up supply of the same quantity. This level of redundancy was based on the concern that the battery life of the netbooks would not last a full day at maximum use. In practice, OICs were encouraged to provide a polling place set-up that allowed for their allocated number of issuing point netbooks to have access to mains power so that battery life was irrelevant. While this recommendation was not mandatory, allowing for the use of battery if necessary, all OICs complied with the recommendation on election day and no battery issues were experienced.

In addition to the now common practice of electoral roll search and mark off, eLAPPS also included functionality for the transmission of those roll marks to all other eLAPPS units across the ACT. It also included functionality for the transmission of final election results directly from the polling place to the internet based eTallyroom (see **Election night and the tally room** on page 50) and functionality which assisted the polling place OICs in the reconciliation and general management of their polling place.

While the 2008 PDA based system allowed for the search and mark off of an elector's name from the electronic certified list, eLAPPS allowed for a far more efficient search function. The polling official could simply type the first few letters of the surname and the first few letters of the given name and eLAPPS would actively display only those electors whose name satisfied that search criteria. The user could further refine the search by simply continuing to type letters from the elector's name, with eLAPPS continuing to actively display the refined search results. The search facility was additionally improved by allowing for the search of an elector based on the elector's address. This proved to be highly successful in finding electors on the roll who could not be found through a search on their name due to circumstances such as the elector's name being incorrectly spelt on the electoral roll or their enrolment details not reflecting their recent change in surname.

eLAPPS also proved effective in speeding up the transaction time for those electors who presented at the polling place with members of their family or others enrolled at the same residence. Once a polling official had searched for, found and marked off an elector, the polling official was presented with the option of returning to search results that only displayed electors who resided at the same residence as the elector previously served. This allowed for a very efficient means of marking off 2 or more electors at the same residence without the need to repeat a name search.

The new active search function and the additional search functionalities of eLAPPS proved to be extremely efficient in processing electors through a polling place. Reporting from eLAPPS after election day showed that one particular eLAPPS user processed 925 electors during election day or approximately one every 40 seconds. Comments from Elections ACT's post election staff survey illustrate that issuing staff found the operation quicker and more efficient than the previous PDA based system and much faster than the older paper rolls from 2004 and earlier.

eLAPPS was also designed to reduce the number of apparent multiple votes by transmitting each roll transaction back to a central database, which in turn collated all the recent transmissions from all polling places and retransmitted them across the ACT so that all roll mark transactions appeared on all eLAPPS computers across the jurisdiction in near real time. The transmission of electoral roll marks was on the whole a major success. By the end of voting on election day over 207,000 names had been successfully marked on a netbook and then successfully transmitted, collated and dispersed to all units across the ACT. Just over 11,000, or approximately 5%, of the names that had been marked on a netbook during the election period had not successfully transmitted to the central database. This was primarily due to 3G connectivity issues in particular polling places. Post election retransmission was required for these roll marks in order to achieve a single central record of voters and non-voters.

In examining apparent multiple voters and non voters, it became clear that some errors had been made by some issuing staff when marking the names of electors. This is not an issue particular to electronic rolls in polling places, and was also an issue for paper based rolls. The Commission will examine eLAPPS and the relevant operational procedures with a view to improving erroneous marking of names on the roll.

Polling place management tasks

eLAPPS also allowed for the majority of polling place managerial paperwork to be replaced by electronic systems. The relevant staff lists and contact details were available for viewing, via eLAPPS, by the OIC of each polling place and could be centrally updated as staff withdrew and were replaced, meaning the most accurate list was available for the OIC on election day morning. The OIC could then record staff ratings and comments on eLAPPS, replacing the traditional paper record. The OIC also had the ability to record any polling place issues, accidents or incidents via eLAPPS with the resulting report electronically sent directly to an Elections ACT officer. This allowed for immediate and appropriate action to be taken by Elections ACT where and when appropriate.

Traditionally, OICs of a polling place were required to manually keep track of the number of blank ballot papers they received, and then reconcile that number with the number of votes issued for each of the 3 electorates, ensuring that a balance was obtained with the number of unused ballot papers and the number of votes in the ballot box at the conclusion of voting. In 2012, eLAPPS automatically performed these reconciliation tasks for the OIC. This allowed the OIC to concentrate their time after the polls had closed on achieving an accurate count for each electorate and allowed for a more timely reporting of the final polling place results. In 2012, the majority of polling places had finalised their counts by 9:00 pm, an improvement on all previous elections.

eLAPPS also enabled the automatic capture and central presentation of statistical information such as the number of voters who had cast their vote at any one particular time, the means in which they had voted (postal, pre-poll, electronic etc), the number of electors yet to cast a vote, the number of voters to have voted at each polling place by electorate, the number of ballot papers remaining at each polling place and many other statistical pieces of data that were used by Elections ACT to keep track of the activities in polling places as they occurred. This information has never before been available. Elections ACT was able to use this information to provide the media and public with interesting statistical information and to guide Elections ACT in the central management of polling place material levels.

Transmission of results on polling night

Once a polling place had completed the count of votes to candidates, the OIC entered the figures into eLAPPS and transmitted the figures back to the central eLAPPS database. From there the figures were automatically posted (see **Election night and the tally room** on page 50) onto the Elections ACT website's eTallyroom and displayed in the official election night Tally Room at Reid TAFE. This eliminated the need for phone calls to be made by each OIC back to Elections ACT and the figures transcribed over the phone and then data entered into an election results software package.

Not all polling places experienced success in the transmission of their final election results. Approximately 11 polling places were unable to successfully transmit their final figures using eLAPPS. These polling places phoned their results into the Tally Room where they were entered into eLAPPS. Despite this, the majority of results were displayed earlier than at any previous ACT election as a result of the efficiencies built into eLAPPS.

Improvements for eLAPPS in 2016

The introduction of eLAPPS in 2012 was very successful. The system will be reviewed prior to the 2016 election to address issues arising at the election. Among the matters for consideration include:

- ◇ The need for transmitting all roll marks across every unit in the ACT during polling;
- ◇ Reducing 'transmission time' for the transmission of final results from some polling places; and
- ◇ Minimising wireless network dropout issues.

Pre-poll voting

Pre-poll voting was provided at Belconnen, Civic, Downer, Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and Woden in the 3 weeks before polling day, commencing on Tuesday 2 October 2012 (Monday 1 October was public holiday). Downer was used as a pre-poll centre for the first time for an ACT Legislative Assembly election in 2012. Electronic voting was provided at all pre-poll voting centres. A total of 61,660 pre-poll votes were cast, or 26.9% of all votes. In 2008, pre-poll votes accounted for 20.3% of all votes. Of the pre-poll votes cast, 50,767, or 82.3% were cast electronically. In 2008, there were 36,323 pre-poll votes cast electronically, or 81.4% of all pre-poll votes.

The pre-poll centres were also used as polling places on polling day, with electronic voting available at those locations.

Details of the numbers of pre-poll votes cast at the 2012 election are at Tables 5-8.

Electronic voting

One in 4 voters used the ACT's electronic voting system at the 2012 election, with a total of 59,200 electronic votes recorded. This system has proved very successful. It has resulted in reduced inadvertent informal votes, early indications of the likely election results on polling night and faster completion of the election results.

The ACT's electronic voting and counting system was introduced at the 2001 election, improved for the 2004 and 2008 elections, and upgraded for the 2012 election.

Changes made to address issues arising at the 2008 election

Some changes were made to the electronic voting system before the 2012 election to address issues that arose at the 2008 election.

Funding was provided in the 2008/2009 budget for a 4-year program of re-development of the Elections ACT computer systems in preparation for the 2012 election. The redevelopment of the electronic voting and counting system, eVACS®, was a major component of that program.

Changes were made to the eVACS® software to address some usability issues and some hardware issues. Changes were also made to some of the polling place processes involving the electronic voting system to improve usability.

Usability issues identified in 2008 included:

- ◇ Voters attempting to use the voting display screen as a touch-screen;
- ◇ Display screens entering “sleep” mode too quickly;
- ◇ Barcode readers not reading the barcode in every case, especially the barcodes for Molonglo; and
- ◇ A small number of voters not completing their vote, or not completing their vote to their satisfaction, possibly due to one or more of the circumstances above.

Several changes were made to address these issues. These included signage above and below the voting screen pointing out that it was not touch screen, more designated official “e-vote helpers” in each electronic polling place, an increased emphasis on the need to swipe the barcode to end the voting session and an improved design for barcodes. Software was changed to prevent the screens from entering “sleep” mode.

The new barcode design successfully overcame the 2008 issue of some barcodes being unreadable, and the feedback from staff was that fewer voters tried to use the voting screen as a touch screen.

The eVACS® software was also changed to provide for a telephone style keypad for use by blind and vision impaired voters, replacing the standard number keypad. This followed a recommendation from representatives of the blind and vision impaired community who stated a preference for the telephone style keypad as it is widely used in other applications and is more readily understood.

A hardware issue that arose in 2008 related to the compatibility of the eVACS® software with modern hardware standards, particularly hard disks. The software was updated for the 2012 election to ensure that electronic voting would be compatible with contemporary hardware. This enabled the Commission to use hardware borrowed from the Australian Electoral Commission as voting clients in the electronic voting polling places.

Another change was made to the eVACS® software to streamline the use of servers in the voting centres. In 2008, after the close of polling at pre-poll centres on the Friday evening before polling day, Elections ACT staff removed the voting servers from the pre-poll centres and replaced them with servers for polling day use. This enabled the data from pre-poll centres and from polling places to be recorded separately. The redevelopment of eVACS® included the separation of pre-poll and polling day voting data without the need to change voting servers. This enhancement not only saved considerable staff time late on Friday evening before polling day, but also removed the risk of server failure due to the changeover.

Further changes were made to eVACS® to make allowance for the possibility of splitting grouped candidates over 2 columns on the ballot paper, if a party was to nominate more candidates than there were vacancies in an electorate. These changes were not needed to be implemented in practice.

Deployment of electronic voting at the 2012 election

Electronic voting was deployed in the 6 pre-poll voting centres located in each of the main town centres (Belconnen, Civic, Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and Woden) and in Downer for the period of 3 weeks before polling day. Downer was selected as a new venue because of the unavailability of the usual polling place in nearby Dickson, and to take some of the pressure from the Civic pre-poll centre. These same locations also had electronic voting on polling day. Normal paper ballots were also available at each electronic voting centre.

Staff of Elections ACT set-up the pre-poll centres with a voting server and 20 electronic voting terminals as well as normal voting facilities for paper ballot voting.

Each electronic voting booth was equipped with a 17" voting display screen, barcode reader, keypad and instruction poster.

One of the 20 electronic voting booths was configured to suit those with a disability, including headphones for voters who are blind or vision impaired, a larger 21" display screen and wheelchair access.

At each election since the introduction of electronic voting, the number of voters using electronic voting has increased.

In total the number of electronic votes increased from 43,820 in 2008, being 81.7% of all votes cast at electronic voting centres (and 19.9% of all votes cast) to 59,200 votes in 2012, or 82.4% of votes cast at electronic voting centres (and 25.8% of all votes cast).

In 2012, 50,767 pre-poll votes were cast electronically, or 82.3% of all pre-poll votes. In 2008, 36,323 electronic pre-poll votes were cast, or 81.4% of all pre-poll votes. In 2004 there were 20,722 pre-poll votes cast electronically, or 68.2% of all pre-poll votes.

In 2012 there were 10,163 votes issued at 6 electronic voting centres on polling day, of which 8,433 or 83.0% were electronic votes. In 2008 there were 9,312 votes issued at 5 electronic voting centres, of which 7,497 or 80.5% were electronic votes. In 2004, there were 11,710 votes issued at 8 electronic voting centres on polling day, of which 7,447 or 63.6% were electronic votes.

Tables at Appendix 1 show the number and percentage of paper ballots and electronic votes by electorate cast at the 6 electronic polling places.

Useability issues arising at the 2012 election

While the changes implemented to address the issues that arose at the 2008 election appeared to reduce the number of usability issues that arose in 2012, it was apparent that some usability issues arose in a small number of cases. These included:

- ◇ Voters not swiping the barcode to end the voting session with the consequence that a vote was not recorded and the barcode was effectively "discarded"; and
- ◇ Voters inadvertently swiping their barcodes to end the voting session before completing their vote, resulting in the preference intentions of the voter not being fulfilled.

At the 2008 election, records indicated that around 295 electors were issued with barcodes but did not correctly cast an electronic vote. These cases were recorded as "discarded" votes.

In 2012, changes made to the way in which electronic votes issued were recorded in the eLAPPS system relied on polling officials correctly marking voters' names as being issued with electronic votes. Unfortunately, in a small number of cases polling officials incorrectly marked electronic voters as being issued with paper ballots and in other cases, voters' names were not correctly marked at all. As a result, it is not possible to accurately count the number of voters who were issued with electronic votes who did not correctly record an electronic vote. It is estimated that this number is around 180. However, as this number is an estimate, the number of apparently discarded electronic votes is not formally reported in the official 2012 Election Statistics.

Of these apparently "discarded" votes, polling officials at the electronic voting centres reported seeing a small number of electronic votes that had been started but not

correctly finished with a second barcode swipe. The number of these incomplete votes is not known. It is also likely that a proportion of apparently “discarded” electronic votes were deliberately unused. In these cases, voters issued with barcodes may have deliberately placed their unused barcodes directly into the ballot box, in the same way that people wishing to vote informally will place a blank ballot paper in the ballot box.

It would appear that the measures taken in 2012 had some effect, as the overall number of discarded votes appears to have been lower in 2012 compared to 2008. However, as this issue appears to be an ongoing one, this result reinforces the need to maintain the practice at future elections of posting “e-vote helpers” in the electronic voting centres to assist voters.

The second usability issue that arose involved 212 electors who appeared to have inadvertently committed their electronic votes before completing their order of preferences. It is possible that some of these voters inadvertently cast informal electronic votes by swiping their barcodes to start their votes, pressing the “finish” key without selecting any preferences, bringing up a warning screen stating that to continue would result in an informal ballot, and then swiping their barcode a second time to effectively cast an informal vote.

In these cases, these voters were issued with a paper declaration ballot, which could only be included in the count if the electronic voting system indicated that their barcode had not been used to cast a vote. In these 212 cases, the barcodes had been used to cast a vote, and their declaration votes were not counted. As it is not possible to link a barcode with an actual vote, it was not possible to determine whether these barcodes had been used to record an informal vote.

To address this issue, the Commission will consider changes to the eVACS® voting interface to make it more difficult for electors to inadvertently cast an informal ballot.

Interstate voting

Interstate voters could vote in person at the office of the capital city office of each State and Territory electoral commission during the pre-election period. There were 559 votes issued at the capital city offices of the State and Territory electoral commissions at the 2012 election compared to 412 in 2008 (note interstate votes were also issued at the AEC divisional offices in Goulburn, Narrandera and Nowra in 2008). Of those votes issued, 534 votes were admitted to the count, compared to 408 in 2008. The following table shows the detailed returns from each interstate voting venue. The interstate pre-poll votes are included in the total pre-poll votes in Tables 5-8.

Table 16 – Interstate voting at the 2012 election

Interstate Electoral Commission	Brindabella	Ginninderra	Molonglo	Total
NSW	35	66	119	220
NT	6	7	19	32
QLD	12	15	25	52
SA	7	14	18	39
TAS	3	4	6	13
VIC	26	37	90	153
WA	19	11	20	50
TOTAL	108	154	297	559

Postal voting

There were 9,859 postal votes admitted to the count for the 2012 election, from a total of 12,209 postal vote packages dispatched as a result of application. In 2008 there were 9,599 postal votes admitted to the count. The change from 2008 to 2012 represents an increase of 2.7%. This compares to an increase of 47% from 2004 to 2008.

This much higher level of increase from 2004 to 2008 compared to the increase from 2008 to 2012 is likely be the result of 2 factors:

- ◇ The change to the Electoral Act prior to the 2008 election enabling voters to apply for a postal vote by phone, on-line or by email as well as the traditional written application; and
- ◇ The continued large increase in the number of voters who choose to pre-poll vote at a pre-poll centre rather than vote by post (see **Voting** at page 30).

The following table provides details of the number of postal votes issued, returned and admitted and the various categories of postal votes received by Elections ACT but rejected from the count, for the 2001, 2004, 2008 and 2012 elections.

Table 17 – Postal vote outcomes

Category	2001	2004	2008	2012
Postal votes issued	8,194	8,325	11,833	12,209
Postal vote ballot papers admitted to the count	6,410	6,532	9,599	9,859
Postal vote envelopes admitted that did not contain ballot papers	30	2	12	15
Applied for a postal vote but voted at a polling place or pre-poll centre	399	605	339	607
Postal votes received but not admitted because voter not correctly enrolled	62	22	68	56
Postal votes received but not admitted because voter claimed a vote for the wrong electorate	14	20	0	4
Postal votes received but not admitted because voter was issued with a ballot paper for the wrong electorate ¹	0	0	0	16
Postal votes received but not admitted because the voter did not sign the declaration ²	129	150	249	52
Postal votes received but not admitted because the witness did not sign the declaration ³	15	73	45	n/a
Postal votes received but not admitted because the voter's signature did not match the signature on the application/enrolment	34	9	2	28
Postal votes received but not admitted because the voter marked his or her vote after polling day	121	78	95	152
Postal votes received too late	264	211	291	318
Postal vote returned to sender unclaimed	58	52	63	93
Postal vote cancelled and ordinary vote not issued	5	0	35	21
Total postal votes returned to Elections ACT or postal voters who voted at a polling place or pre-poll centre	7,541	7,754	10,798	11,221
Total postal votes not returned to Elections ACT	651	571	1,035	988

Note 1: For 2012, this relates to the 16 incorrect ballot papers issued to Ginninderra voters. See the detailed report at page 40.

Note 2: Postal votes received but not admitted because the voter did not sign the declaration dropped significantly in 2012. This may be because more rigorous procedures were introduced whereby electors who did not sign their postal vote declarations were contacted and provided with the opportunity to resubmit correctly signed postal votes.

Note 3: For 2012, a postal vote did not require a witness signature.

One significant legislative change was made to the postal voting process in 2012. The change removed the requirement for a witness to observe the postal voting process and to witness the postal voter's signature on the declaration. This change resulted from the recommendation of the Commission in its 2008 Election report. The Commission argued that there was no significant benefit to having a witness to the process or the voter's signature. Forty-five postal votes were rejected in 2008 and 75 in 2004 because a witness had not signed the postal vote declaration.

At the 2008 election, for the first time at an ACT election, postal applications could be made over the phone, by email or online on the Elections ACT website, in addition to written applications as in the past. The Elections ACT postal vote system introduced for the 2008 election changes was significantly upgraded for the 2012 election.

The upgraded system worked well, with anecdotal comments made by applicants about the ease of applying by phone or on-line. Details of applicants were either entered directly to the postal voting system by the applicant themselves, or by operators at the call centre, or from email and written information. This automation enabled a much quicker turnaround of the postal vote ballot material to the applicant.

The following table shows the number of postal vote applications received using the various methods of application. Note that electors registered as general postal voters are automatically sent postal ballot papers without needing to make an application.

Table 18 – Applications for postal votes

Category	Brindabella	Ginninderra	Molonglo	Total
General postal voters	776	893	1596	3265
Canberra Connect (by elector) ¹	299	382	661	1342
Canberra Connect (by representative of elector) ¹	100	138	252	490
In person at Elections ACT	6	14	13	33
Over the phone at Elections ACT (by elector)	16	33	53	102
Over the phone at Elections ACT (by representative of elector)	11	7	15	33
Email (by elector)	22	32	69	123
Email (by representative of elector)	6	2	15	23
Faxed (by elector)	7	11	12	30
Faxed (by representative of elector)	1	1	0	2
Handed in at a pre-poll centre	0	0	1	1
On a printed official postal vote application form (by elector)	287	340	655	1282
On a printed official postal vote application form (by representative of elector)	34	28	37	99
Web application (by elector)	1117	1372	2379	4868
Web application (by representative of elector)	276	342	494	1112
Total²	2958	3595	6295	12805

Note 1: Includes applications by telephone and in person at shopfronts.

Note 2: Not all postal vote applications received resulted in postal ballot packs being issued. As the ACT has fixed term elections, postal vote applications can be made many months in advance of polling day. It is relatively common for electors to apply for postal votes early but later withdraw their application when they are made aware of the dates for despatch of postal voting papers.

Incorrect postal ballot papers issued to Ginninderra voters

On Friday 5 October 2012, Elections ACT became aware that an error had occurred in the processing of postal votes, with some electors having been sent ballot papers for an incorrect electorate. Upon further investigation Elections ACT identified in the postal vote database a batch of 150 electors enrolled in the electorate of Ginninderra who may have inadvertently been sent Brindabella ballot papers in their postal vote packs. To assist further in determining the extent of the issue, Elections ACT conducted a telephone audit to a selection of electors in the batch of 150. It was subsequently decided to reissue a new postal vote pack to each elector in the affected batch of 150. Included in the pack was a letter explaining the issue. Electors were invited to return their incorrect postal vote packs to Elections ACT.

A second telephone audit was conducted to ensure that electors included in the batches either side of the affected batch were not affected in the same manner. Through this audit it was confirmed that the issue was limited to only those original 150 electors.

Consequently, Elections ACT built into the postal voting database a means of matching any of these returned postal vote packs from the 150 electors. This allowed Elections ACT to ensure that only one vote from any of these affected electors was admitted to the count. Due to the substantial number of affected electors, it was decided that the returned postal vote packs would be treated as a separate segregated batch for counting purposes. Elections ACT could count these ballot papers separately without compromising the secrecy of the ballot for those electors. In doing so, any instances of 2 ballot papers returned in the one envelope could be handled appropriately, avoiding the possibility of these ballot papers being automatically rejected from the count due to what was known to be an error on behalf of Elections ACT.

An immediate investigation was conducted into how the error may have occurred, with a thorough examination of the written procedures. It remains unclear how the error occurred, with human error by postal vote team members the most likely cause. An additional spot audit of every batch was introduced, prior to the postal packs being sealed, to ensure the same mistake was not replicated. No further ballot paper errors became evident for the remainder of the postal vote processing period.

Table 19 – Breakdown of the 150 affected electors who received replacement postal vote packs

Return type	Number
Mail returned to sender	1
Postal vote envelope not signed by the elector	3
Elector not found on roll	1
Elector voted in person at a polling place	2
Postal vote pack not returned	9
Postal vote envelope admitted to the count	118
Postal vote rejected from the count as they contained a Brindabella ballot paper	16
Total	150

Voting at polling places

Public schools, private schools, hospitals and community facilities were used as polling venues in the 2012 election.

Wherever possible the Commission attempted to keep the same polling places that were used at previous ACT and federal elections in order to minimise public confusion. Due to the unavailability of some public schools and other venues due to renovation, among other things, there were different polling venues in 14 suburbs.

As at previous ACT elections, electors were able to cast an ordinary vote at any polling place within the ACT. An ordinary vote is a vote issued to an elector whose name is found on the certified list of electors for the election.

Mobile polling

Teams of polling officials visited 28 nursing/retirement homes/villages, the Canberra, Calvary (Bruce and Deakin) and National Capital Private hospitals and the Alexander Maconochie Centre in the week leading up to and including polling day. For the first time there was not a static polling place on polling day at the Canberra Hospital due to unavailability of a suitable venue following renovations. Instead 2 mobile visitor teams visited the hospital on polling day.

The mobile teams took a total of 1,476 votes from patients, residents and inmates of those institutions. This compares to the 1,105 votes taken in 2008.

Prisoner voting

The entitlement for prisoners to enrol to vote was amended in May 2008 to allow all eligible ACT prisoners to enrol and vote in ACT Legislative Assembly elections. By contrast, prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for 3 years or longer are not eligible to vote for federal elections.

Elections ACT liaised with ACT Corrective Services on arrangements for the enrolment and voting by remandees and prisoners. For the 2012 election, all eligible ACT remandees and prisoners were located in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

Corrective Services provided Elections ACT with details of all ACT prisoners in the AMC. The list of prisoners was checked against the electoral roll. Enrolment applications and information explaining prisoner enrolment and voting entitlements were provided 2 weeks before the close of rolls, through ACT Corrective Services, to enable those not enrolled to do so. Of the 273 prisoners on the list, 61 were enrolled in the ACT and 8 were enrolled outside the ACT.

Arrangements were made with Corrective Services for mobile polling at the AMC on Monday 15 October from 9 am to 5 pm. Corrective Services officers escorted inmates to the mobile polling team in a secure location. A total of 30 votes were taken at the AMC by the mobile polling team. Postal vote applications were also made available for those who would not be able to vote when the mobile polling team attended the centre. It is not possible to determine how many remandees and prisoners voted by post.

Declaration voting

A declaration vote is issued to a voter in a polling place or pre-poll centre where:

- ◇ The elector's name cannot be found on the roll for any of the 3 electorates;
- ◇ The elector's name appears on the electoral roll as having already been marked as having voted;
- ◇ The elector's name is found on the electoral roll for the correct address but the year of birth does not match; or
- ◇ If the vote is issued at an interstate polling place (559 in 2012).

There were 4,294 declaration votes issued in 2012 compared to 2,413 in 2008 and 3,757 in 2004.

The category of "year of birth and name not matching a name on the roll" was introduced for the 2012 election. Also introduced in 2012 was technology that limited the ability to mark the name of the one voter more than once on the electoral roll in different locations.

Each of these factors had some affect on the increase in the number of declaration votes issue in 2012 compared to 2008. Two declaration votes were issued in 2012 due to the year of birth and name not matching on the roll. This category could be included at 2012 election declaration vote figures as year of birth was included on the certified list for the first time in 2012.

In elections prior to 2012, the declaration vote category 'already marked as having voted', while technically possible, was unlikely to occur. It would have involved the elector presenting at the issuing table that was using the same electoral roll in which their name was already marked. However, due to the introduction of eLAPPS (see **Electronic Legislative Assembly Polling Place System - eLAPPS** on page 30) in 2012 and its ability to transmit electoral roll marks across all polling places, it became possible to stop an ordinary vote being issued to an elector who may have already cast their vote. In the circumstance of the elector's name already being marked on the electoral roll, a declaration vote is issued and an investigation is performed during the post election period to determine whether the vote can be admitted to the count, particularly whether it is a case of multiple voting or simply a polling official error.

In 2012, 123 declaration votes were issued because the elector's name was already marked as having voted. After investigation, none of these votes appeared to have been cases where the named elector had voted twice. All but 5 of these votes were admitted to the count. One was rejected as it was not signed by the elector, and 4 were rejected as the elector was issued a vote for an incorrect electorate.

At the 2012 election 3,392 declaration votes were issued because the elector's name could not be found on the electoral roll at the polling place. Of these, 214 voters were later found on the roll by an experienced Elections ACT officer and the vote admitted to the count. A further 546, while not on the roll at the time of the close of rolls, were admitted to the count after a preliminary scrutiny into the elector's electoral roll history found that the voter should not have been removed from the roll. The balance of 2,647 declaration votes, up from 1,600 in 2008, were rejected and not admitted to the count due to the elector not being enrolled.

The most likely explanation for the increase in the number of declaration votes issued in 2012 compared to 2008 is the relatively low percentage of enrolment in 2012 compared to the percentage in 2008. The estimated number of electors on the roll compared to the estimated number entitled was 93.9% at the close of rolls for the 2012 election. This compares to an estimate of 97.1% at the 2008 election. This appears to have resulted in a relatively large number of electors presenting at a polling place, assuming they were on the roll when they were not, and consequently completing a declaration vote.

In its 2008 election report, the Commission reported that the AEC had altered its policy of removing electors from the rolls on the ground of non-residence in the lead-up to and aftermath of the 2007 federal election. One effect of this policy appeared to be the reduction in the number of declaration votes issued at the 2008 election. In combination, these 2 factors may account for the increase of 1047 rejected declaration votes from 2008 to the 2012 election.

In a change of practice from previous elections, where Elections ACT contracted the AEC for the conduct of the preliminary scrutiny of declaration votes, Elections ACT performed its own preliminary scrutiny in 2012 using experienced staff, some of whom were provided by the AEC. This is a complex task involving the detailed examination of the voter's enrolment history using the AEC's computerised roll management system.

Complaints made to the Electoral Commissioner

There were 204 complaints made to the Electoral Commissioner relating to the 2012 election, each of which was seriously considered and investigated.

Most of the complaints were of a similar nature to those received in 2008, although the overall number increased from 154 in 2008 to 204 in 2012.

In 2012, 110 of the complaints related to activities of parties and candidates, 79 related to activities of Elections ACT and a further 15 related to other matters.

The complaints fell into the broad categories shown in the table below, comparing the 2008 and 2012 elections.

Table 20 – Complaints relating to the 2008 and 2012 elections

Complaints relating to party and candidate activity		2008	2012
Matters regulated under the Electoral Act	Canvassing within 100 metres of a polling place	30	18
	Authorisation of advertisements ¹	17	24
	Miscellaneous ²	5	16
Matters not regulated under the Electoral Act	Placement of signs in public or commercial places ³	12	28
	Miscellaneous ⁴	39	24
Sub-total		105	110
Complaints relating to Elections ACT services		2008	2012
Voting	Locations/signage	10	13
	Electronic voting facilities/systems	0	14
	Electronic voting staff assistance	9	10
	Other voting facilities/systems	0	12
	Other voting staff assistance	10	15
Elections ACT advertising		11	8
Miscellaneous		5	10
Sub-total		45	79
Complaints unrelated to Party, candidate or Elections ACT activity		2008	2012
Issues such as the availability of electoral roll data, compulsory voting, media blackout, voter identification and ABC television coverage		4	15
Sub-total		4	15
Total complaints		154	204

*Note 1: The Commissioner considered that most of the allegations regarding authorisation of electoral advertisements did not involve a breach of the Electoral Act. Where the material did appear to be in breach the matter was brought to the notice of the responsible person and rectified. In one case, a formal complaint was referred to the AFP for investigation. The authorisation of electoral material is discussed below under **Political Campaigning** on page 46.*

Note 2: These complaints included assertions that a party provided incorrect information regarding the use of the electoral roll, misunderstanding of provisions relating to misleading/deceitful advertising, and unknown authors of material supporting candidates.

Note 3: These complaints were referred to the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, and included references to the number, size and location of signs, location of stationary vehicles displaying advertising, and use of public land.

Note 4: These covered a range of activity including the quality of messages in advertising, acceptable canvassing, junk mail, use of material without permission and damage to a vehicle.

In accordance with the Commission's prosecution policy in cases of apparent minor, technical or trivial breaches of the Act, where the Commissioner was of the view that a breach of the Act may have occurred, the Commissioner's first approach was to contact the potential offender and ask them to comply with the Act. This approach was apparently effective in preventing continuing minor or technical breaches of the Act.

Of some concern to the Commission is the increase in complaints categorised as relating to Elections ACT services from 45 in 2008 to 79 in 2012. The increase is in contrast to the high satisfaction level with those services identified in the market research undertaken of a random sample of voters as they left a sample of polling places (refer to **Market Research** on page 29). It is also important to place this number of complaints in the context that the Commission provided electronic voting services to 59,200 electors and overall provided voting services to over 220,000 electors.

The increase is almost entirely in the context of complaints about voting facilities at both electronic and non-electronic voting centres.

Closer examination discloses the 12 complaints relating to facilities/systems at non-electronic voting centres relate to a lack of confidence in the electronic mark-off of a voter's name (2), wrong address shown on the roll allegedly due to the change not having been actioned (3), and a voter's name having been marked incorrectly requiring the completion of a declaration vote (7). This last category results from the implementation for the 2012 election of the networking of the mark-off of voter names across the ACT (see **Electronic Legislative Assembly polling place system – eLAPPS** on page 30). Unfortunately where a name is incorrectly marked, and the voter whose name has been marked incorrectly later attends to vote, the voter is required to complete a declaration vote. The declaration vote is checked at the Elections ACT office and unless it is clear that the person has attempted to vote twice, the vote is included in the scrutiny.

Of the 14 complaints relating to electronic voting facilities/systems, 5 allege hardware not being fit for purpose, and 8 relate to difficulty with barcode readers. The former could refer to the voting screen not being a touch screen facility. Touch screen was considered for the 2012 election but not pursued due to cost and availability considerations, but will be reconsidered for 2016. With respect to the use of barcode readers, Elections ACT acknowledges there were issues with some readers and that the technology is now dated. The use of barcode readers or some other type of registration system will be examined in preparation for the 2016 election.

Of the items listed above as complaints, some might more correctly be categorised as concerns or comments. Where such concerns or comments warranted a response from Elections ACT, they were categorised under the general heading of "complaints". For example, the media blackout was raised by 2 people, not necessarily in the context of a complaint, with the matter resolved by providing information about the rules that apply.

Political campaigning

Authorisation of electoral advertisements

Electoral matter intended or likely to affect voting in an ACT Legislative Assembly election is required to carry an authorisation statement setting out the name of the person who has authorised the electoral matter and, if the matter is published for or on behalf of party or a candidate, a statement that the matter is published for the party or candidate.

The authorisation rules are intended to prevent “irresponsibility through anonymity” – that is, making it unlawful to publish electoral material that does not identify the author, so that voters who may be using that information to decide how they will vote are able to judge whether the material is coming from a source with a particular interest in the election.

Changes made in May 2008 to simplify the authorisation requirements reduced the number of complaints received at the 2008 election regarding non-compliance with authorisation requirements. The number of complaints received at the 2012 election was also at a low level, with 24 complaints received in 2012, compared to 17 complaints received in 2008.

There were very few complaints in 2012 relating to authorisation of internet advertisements and websites. However, it is noted that developments in internet usage have given rise to practices that do not lend themselves to traditional authorisation statements. For example, social media content, user comments on news websites, and internet banner or sidebar advertising may contain material that falls within the definition of electoral matter, but in many cases it is impractical for this material to carry an authorisation statement.

Some material, such as advertising for candidates and parties, can be readily identified as being published by or on behalf of named candidates and/or parties. Such material passes the “irresponsibility through anonymity” test. Comments on news media websites, that might be likened to letters to the editor, often do not identify the author of the material. It is common for the authors of comments on news sites to be identified by pseudonyms. (Printed letters to the editors in newspapers are required to identify the author’s name and the place where they live.) Similarly, social media websites do not always identify the names of people making electoral comments. These types of electoral commentary arguably fail the “irresponsibility through anonymity” test.

On the face of it, it could be argued that anonymous internet commentary that falls within the definition of ACT electoral matter breaches the authorisation provisions of the Electoral Act. In practice, it is difficult to contemplate effective means of enforcing these provisions. Given the ephemeral nature of internet commentary, it is arguable that the need to identify the authors of such material is less than the need to authorise more formal electoral campaign material, such as material published by or on behalf of candidates, parties and third party campaigners.

Where internet commentary is undertaken by anonymous individuals, it could be argued that the likelihood of causing electoral harm through “irresponsibility through anonymity” is not very high, compared to the harm that could be caused by parties, candidates or third-party campaigners. In order to arrive at a balance that is capable of being enforced, it is suggested that the authorisation requirements not apply to internet commentary by persons acting in a private capacity.

The Commission **recommends** that the Electoral Act be amended to remove internet commentary by persons acting in a private capacity from the authorisation requirements.

One formal complaint relating to authorisation of electoral material was referred to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) for investigation. The complaint related to an advertisement displayed on a roadside on or around 8-10 October 2012. The complaint was not received by the Electoral Commissioner until 30 October 2012. The AFP responded to this referral saying that they were unable to commit the required resources to investigate the matter. Given the response from the AFP, no further action was taken on this complaint.

The AFP response to this referral illustrates the difficulty of addressing authorisation breaches with formal prosecution action.

Under the Commissioner's prosecution policy, all reported cases of unauthorised electoral matter are addressed in the first instance with a request to cease distribution of unauthorised matter and to ensure matter is correctly authorised. This process is generally very effective. In the case of the advertisement referred to the AFP, the complaint was not received by the Electoral Commissioner until after polling day. It appears that an email sent to the Commissioner at the time of the apparent breach of the authorisation provisions was not received by Elections ACT, possibly as it included a significant number of attached photographs. If this complaint had been received at the time, it is likely that the matter could have been addressed at the time of the alleged breach without the need for referral to the AFP.

Another issue that arose during the election in relation to authorisation statements related to the size and legibility of authorisation statements on printed material, particularly material produced by parties and candidates. Some letterbox material included authorisation statements in very small print and colours that blended in with the background images. Some signage – particularly roadside signs intended to be seen from a distance – included authorisation statements in small print that could not be read without getting very close.

The Commission is reluctant to recommend any amendments to the Electoral Act to address this issue as enforcement of size restrictions has proven to be problematic in other jurisdictions.

The Commission suggests that parties, candidates and third party campaigners should carry responsibility for ensuring that any authorisation statements are readily visible and legible on any material they produce. The Commission will consider placing more emphasis on this issue in its advice to parties, candidates and third party campaigners at the 2016 election and in relation to its enforcement of the authorisation requirements.

The 100 metre ban on canvassing at polling places

Section 303 of the Electoral Act provides for an offence of doing anything for the purpose of influencing the vote of an elector as the elector is approaching a polling place, within 100 metres of a pre-poll centre or a polling place on polling day, within the hours of polling. This prohibition includes the handing out of how-to-vote cards.

At the 2012 election, around 18 allegations of breaches of the 100 metre ban were received, compared to around 30 complaints received at the 2008 election. These complaints were dealt with by electoral staff asking campaigners to move outside the 100 metre limit and by asking party workers to remove signs within the 100 metre limit.

To assist party campaigners to identify the limits of the 100 metre boundary, Elections ACT prepared maps of each polling place and pre-poll centre showing the extent of the 100 metre boundary. These maps were made available on the Elections ACT website. This is the first time these maps were produced for every polling location at an ACT election. The distribution of the maps may have contributed to the reduction in the number of complaints received regarding canvassing within the 100 metre limit.

The application of the 100 metre rule does raise some practical issues, particularly where pre-poll centres or polling places are located in shopping centres. In some of these cases, political party campaign offices have fallen within the 100 metre limit. These cases are dealt with using a common sense approach to ensure that electors approaching the polling place are not subjected to canvassing.

Some complaints regarding the 100 metre ban indicated that campaign workers standing at the 100 metre limit presented a traffic hazard. While the Commission would urge campaigners to ensure they do not present any hazard, the Commission does not consider this to be an electoral issue.

While compliance with the 100 metre ban on canvassing continues to be an issue during polling, the number of complaints received alleging breaches of the ban declined from 2008 to 2012. The Commission does not suggest any changes to these provisions.

Political party and candidate posters in public places

The Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS) administers the laws relating to the placement of signs in public places in the ACT. TAMS has produced a pamphlet titled *The Code of Practice for the Placement of Movable Signs in Public Places*. The code applies, among other things, to election advertising signs, and recognises the ACT and Commonwealth electoral acts by requiring that signs conform to the requirements of any relevant provisions of those acts. There are a number of areas where signs may not be placed, including on median strips and designated areas such as the major arterial roads in and around Canberra.

During the campaign, the Commission received a number of complaints about the placement of campaign posters beside major arterial roads. These complaints were referred to TAMS.

The number of complaints related to placement of signs more than doubled from 12 in 2008 to 28 in 2012, although this remains relatively low. A number of the complaints related to the display of advertisements attached to trailers driven around polling places, parked in the vicinity of polling places or parked at the side of roads.

As in 2008, there were also complaints that party campaign posters were being displayed on vehicles parked beside major arterial roads during peak hour, often with a candidate beside the vehicle waving or otherwise attracting the attention of motorists. The complaints included assertions that the placement of the vehicles and actions of the candidates was distracting to drivers and could cause an accident. The Commission does not consider that regulation of such activity should be the preserve of the Electoral Act as it is essentially related to traffic safety. If the Assembly is concerned about this activity, it may wish to take this matter up with the appropriate authorities.

Size of political party and candidate posters

Complaints were received regarding the placement of large political posters and signs at various locations during the 2012 election period. This is the first time the size of posters has been raised as an issue. The Electoral Act does not regulate the size of political posters or signs. Some of the complaints related to the location of the signs, for example close to pedestrian crossings and traffic signals. All complaints relating to placement of signs in public areas were referred to TAMS (see **Political party and candidate posters in public places** on page 48).

The Commission considers that placing a limitation in the Electoral Act on the size on posters containing electoral matter would be impractical as it would be difficult and expensive to police and enforce. The Commission considers it more appropriate for political signs in public places to be regulated by TAMS in the same way as signs for other purposes are regulated.

Election night and the tally room

The tally room for the 2012 ACT Legislative Assembly election was again located in the gymnasium of the Reid campus of the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT).

Features of the tally room included a significant media presence, with WIN television and ABC radio and television constructing substantial broadcast sets, and more modest facilities provided to other radio, television and newspaper organisations. Members of the public were welcome at the tally room, and the 2012 tally room was well attended by the public, as at previous elections.

A large screen and a powerful projector were used to display updated electronic results in the tally room. Computer terminals displaying the Elections ACT website election results were also provided for the public, staffed by Elections ACT officers who were available to display and interpret the results. Political parties were also allocated dedicated space in the tally room. Official visitors from other Australian electoral authorities also attended the tally room. A wireless internet connection was made available in the tally room for the media and party representatives to enable them to access the internet.

The Elections ACT information and education officer was again appointed as tally room manager. Considerable support and assistance was provided by staff from the CIT and Shared Services ICT. The projector was provided by a specialist contractor. The Election Results Display System (ERDS) used to display the results in the tally room and on the Elections ACT website was redeveloped for the 2012 election by a contractor.

The count of votes on election night in 2012 began after the close of each polling place at 6 pm. At each polling place the ballot boxes containing ordinary votes were opened and ballot papers sorted to the first preference for each candidate. Ballot papers for all 3 electorates were counted and sorted to candidates in each polling place; however, where the total number of votes counted in an electorate was less than 20, these ballot papers were not sorted to candidates to preserve the secrecy of the ballot. These “under 20” votes were transferred unsorted to the Elections ACT counting centre for inclusion in an amalgamated count under the central scrutiny category. Any ballot papers that were ruled as informal, or for which formality was not clear, were categorised as informal and reserved for further checking after polling day.

Once the count of first preferences was complete, the OIC of the polling place entered the result into eLAPPS using a netbook computer. The results were transmitted via 3G to a central database. ERDS then extracted and tabulated the results for display on a large screen in the public area of the tally room. The results were also made available through the Commission’s electronic tally room on the internet. The statistical information made available on-line included vote totals for candidates and parties at the polling place and electorate level, as well as summary information by party at the electorate and ACT level. Raw election results were also made available to the ABC and WIN for their election broadcasts.

The transmission of results directly from eLAPPS to ERDS via the 3G network replaced the past practice of OICs phoning their results to a call centre in the tally room, where results would be data-entered. This proved to be faster and more efficient than using a call centre with centralised data entry. A reduced number of call centre operators were on standby in the tally room as a back-up to the 3G network and were able to take the results of those few polling place OICs who were unable to send their results over the 3G network.

Results from ballot papers cast by electronic voting at the pre-poll voting centres were also entered into eLAPPS and displayed via ERDS on polling night. In addition, an indicative distribution of preferences based on the pre-poll electronic votes was displayed via the results website. The results of the counting of 49,591 electronic votes cast at the 6 pre-poll voting centres were available in the tally room and on the website at around 6.30 pm. Given the large number of electronic pre-poll votes, these results gave an early indication of the possible outcome of the election. The voting results from the electronic votes cast on polling day were also entered into eLAPPS for display via the website and tally room around 7.00 pm.

After entering the first preference count at each electronic voting polling place (available on-screen on the electronic voting servers) into eLAPPS for transmission into ERDS, the polling place OICs copied the electronic voting ballot information onto CD-ROMs, which were then transported to the tally room. These electronic votes were then combined with the results from the 6 pre-poll voting centres. An updated preference distribution spreadsheet for all 3 electorates was posted on the Elections ACT website at around 9:00 pm.

Of the 17 candidates indicated as elected on election night using the 57,765 formal electronic votes, 15 of them were ultimately elected. Two candidates indicated as elected on election night were not ultimately elected – In Ginninderra, ACT Greens candidate Meredith Hunter was incorrectly indicated as elected on election night, but after the full distribution of all preferences ACT Labor candidate Yvette Berry was elected. In Molonglo, Canberra Liberals candidate Elizabeth Lee was incorrectly indicated as elected on election night, but after the full distribution of all preferences, ACT Labor candidate Simon Corbell was elected. This result was similar to the outcomes in 2001 and 2004, when in each case 16 of the 17 elected candidates were correctly identified on election night using the interim distribution of preferences from the electronic vote count.

Temporary outages of election night results computer systems have frequently occurred in past Australian elections. Such temporary outages occurred at the 2004 and 2008 ACT elections. As a result of the 2008 experience, the election results system used at the 2008 election was totally redeveloped with the intention of eliminating any outages. The new Election Results Display System (ERDS) operated faultlessly on election night and in the days following polling day.

The count of preferences

Scanning scrutiny system

At the 2008 election the Commission used, for the first time for a parliamentary election in Australia, a ballot paper scanning system that recorded the preferences on each ballot paper. This system was used at the 2012 election with some minor modifications to deliver the fastest ever ACT election result.

The scanning system was developed for the Commission by the SEMA Group using a combination of available scanning, imaging and Intelligent Character Recognition software and specific to purpose software to cater for the ACT election scrutiny rules.

The scanning scrutiny system replaced the system used in 2001 and 2004 that required a team of up to 30 data operators twice keying the preferences on ballot papers, with a further team of 10 error-correction supervisors. The Commission's report on the 2008 election gives more detail about this system.

The computerised scrutiny was completed in 2008 on the Saturday afternoon following polling day. The final result was made public that evening. This was the earliest that the final result has been made known in any ACT election.

In the 2012 election, the scrutiny was completed even earlier, at about midday on the Saturday after polling day, with the final result made public in mid-afternoon. These achievements were a direct result of the ballot paper scanning scrutiny system.

Following the 2008 election, the Commission conducted an audit of the images of the scanned ballot papers to verify the accuracy of the system. The audit found one case only of an incorrect interpretation of preferences that was the result of the system itself. This case involved a ballot paper that was scanned with the bottom left corner of the paper "turned up", covering the Robson Rotation number. The image of the "turned up" corner appeared as a mark that was interpreted as a figure 1, and the system took the paper to be Robson Rotation 1, which was incorrect.

As a result, SEMA was contracted to enhance the system for the 2012 election to enable the Robson Rotation numbers on both the left and right of the paper to be read and matched, with any discrepancy requiring operator intervention.

A very small number of other incorrect preference interpretations were discovered in the 2008 audit that were the result of operator error.

Using the experience of the 2008 election changes were made to operational procedures around the scanning system to address the issues found and to streamline the workflow.

Unlike 2008, for 2012 ballot papers were not batched in polling places on polling night, but were instead sent to the central scrutiny for batching. Ballot papers were counted to batches of 100 papers, rather than to batches of 50, and ballot papers with a first preference for a candidate were not required to be kept in separate batches. This change to the process made the count more accurate and required fewer small batches. As a result the scanning process became much smoother and faster.

Other improvements to the operation included:

- ◇ Assigning a dedicated ballot paper manager to oversee the security of the ballot paper room and the movement of ballot papers between the room, the scanners and the verification operators;
- ◇ Engaging a dedicated team to count and check count batches;
- ◇ Implementing a standard procedure for dealing with informal declaration ballot papers found in batches of ordinary ballot papers; and
- ◇ Placing all the ballot papers considered to be informal by polling place OICs, but considered to be formal by the Electoral Commissioner or Deputy Electoral Commissioner, in a specially designated batch, enabling that batch to be tracked through the system, ensuring the final interpretation was not later amended by verification operators.

The Electoral Commissioner or the Deputy Electoral Commissioner personally rechecked every ballot paper set aside as informal by polling staff. This process, also followed at all previous ACT elections, served to make a final ruling on all identified informal ballot papers, leading in some cases to ballot papers initially ruled as informal being ruled as formal and incorporated in the count through the scanning system. Scrutineers representing candidates were always present during this process. Those ballot papers deemed formal were placed in a specially designated batch for scanning. Where it was difficult to determine an elector's written preference on a ballot paper, removable stickers containing rulings on preferences by the Commissioner or the Deputy were placed on ballots before they were scanned to aid the scanning verification process.

As a further quality control measure, all challenged or doubtful preference interpretations were referred to the Electoral Commissioner or the Deputy Electoral Commissioner before committal to the counting database. Where it was difficult to interpret the voter's intention using the black and white scanned image of a ballot paper on screen, the original ballot paper was retrieved and used to make a final ruling.

From the Tuesday to the Friday after polling day, an interim set of preference distribution results was calculated using those polling places that had been completely scanned and verified. At the end of each day, the preferences were copied to disk and transferred to the Hare-Clark counting program included in eVACS®. This enabled an updated interim distribution of preferences to be loaded on the Elections ACT website each evening. This feature enabled scrutineers, candidates, the media and other interested persons to follow the course of the scrutiny and served to reduce the uncertainty of the final outcome as figures were incrementally included in the count.

The bulk of the scanning was complete by the Friday after polling day, which was the last day on which postal votes could be received and included in the count. The scanning of the last postal ballot paper batches and final verification of the remaining unverified scanned ballots was completed in the morning of the Saturday after polling day. Time was then taken to verify that the final output of the counting system matched the records of votes issued and counted in the polling places and the central scrutiny centre. This process was used as a final quality control check to ensure that all ballots had been correctly scanned and input.

The final distribution of preference result sheets were posted on the Elections ACT website at around 3:00 pm on Saturday 27 October 2012, just under 7 days after the close of the poll at 6.00 pm on 20 October 2012.

The Commission is confident that the count of preferences using the scanning system was conducted at a very high level of accuracy. The various quality control measures built into the process were designed to achieve as close to 100% accuracy as possible, given the limitations of interpreting handwritten numbers on ballots.

The Commission conducted an audit of the images of the scanned ballot papers from the 2012 election to verify the accuracy of the system. A random sample of 1,000 ballot papers from each electorate was checked to ensure the ballots were scanned correctly. This audit found no cases where the electronically recorded preferences differed from the handwritten preferences on the paper ballots.

Electronic counting using eVACS®

The eVACS® counting system has been used to count ACT elections since the introduction of computerised voting and counting at the 2001 election. At the 2012 election eVACS® worked faultlessly, providing timely results and reports each day of the count.

Following the 2008 election, a number of enhancements were made to the electronic counting component of eVACS® as a consequence of the upgrades to the voting component, including enabling the system to operate on contemporary hardware, making allowance for the possibility of splitting grouped candidates over 2 columns on the ballot paper if a party was to nominate more candidates than there were vacancies in an electorate, and updating the data entry aspects of the counting system (used as a backup to scanning of ballot papers).

Drafting anomaly in Hare-Clark counting schedule

There is a drafting anomaly in clause 7(3)(c)(i) and (ii) of Schedule 4 of the Electoral Act. This paragraph deals with the situation where 2 or more candidates have obtained a surplus of votes and they are tied with the same number of votes (these candidates are defined as "contemporary candidates"). The purpose of the clause is to identify which candidate's surplus is to be dealt with first.

The clause requires the identification of the most recent count in the scrutiny at which all the contemporary candidates had an unequal total votes. However, where there are 3 or more contemporary candidates it is not necessary to identify the count at which these candidates all had the same total number of votes – it is simply necessary to identify the next latest count at which 1 of the contemporary candidates had more total votes than any other contemporary candidate at the last count at which the contemporary candidates had unequal total votes.

The word "all" in the current provision (twice appearing) is redundant, and can lead to an anomalous situation where 1 candidate had more votes than any other tied contemporary candidate, but 2 other candidates remain tied. In this case, under the current provision, it would not be possible to identify the leading candidate as the candidate whose surplus was to be dealt with. This is contrary to accepted Hare-Clark scrutiny procedures.

This anomaly can be corrected by removing the word "all" from this provision.

The Commission **recommends** that clause 7(3)(c)(i) and (ii) of Schedule 4 of the Electoral Act be amended to delete the word "all" to ensure that the scrutiny rules follow accepted Hare-Clark procedures.

Election staff

Staffing

For the 2012 election, Elections ACT supplemented its small team of ongoing staff by employing experienced casual staff in temporary positions to manage various processes in the lead-up to, through and following the election. Elections ACT also employed a number of casual staff to undertake a range of tasks throughout the election period, including staffing the many polling places on polling day.

Additional temporary staff commenced with Elections ACT in July 2012 and continued until the completion of the bulk of the election tasks in November. Key staff coming on board in July included the staffing manager, materials manager, media manager and early voting manager. These additional staff effectively came on board 2 ½ months before the official start of the election period in September.

This is a relatively short time in which to undertake the wide range of tasks that require completion before the election officially commences. This in turn adds to the workload of the Elections ACT permanent staff in the first half of the year. At the 2016 election the Commission intends to employ these additional key staff earlier in the calendar year in order to ease the considerable workloads currently carried by the permanent staff members. This change would impact on the budget required for the 2015/2016 financial year.

Elections ACT maintains a register of people suitable for employment as polling officials and election casuals. Where possible, staff who have been employed previously and who were rated as suitable are asked to work again at the election.

There were over 700 staff employed to work on polling day alone.

The introduction of the new electronic polling place management system (eLAPPS) enabled Elections ACT to streamline the staffing of polling places. In particular, the number of ordinary vote issuing officers was reduced to reflect the efficiency with which names could be marked off using eLAPPS. A decision was also made to remove queue controllers from polling places on the assumption that eLAPPS would render them unnecessary. In practice, the absence of queue controllers placed additional burdens on polling staff as it removed the ability to rotate vote issuing staff through this position, and it reduced the level of service provided to electors. The Commission intends to reinstate the position of queue controller at the 2016 election.

Exit polling conducted for Elections ACT indicated that 96% of voters in 2012 felt polling staff were helpful, efficient and friendly. (See **Table 47 – Voter satisfaction with service delivery provided by ACT polling places** on page 88.)

The ACT Government's Shared Services Centre was engaged under contract for the election to facilitate the payment of all election casuals. The payment information was maintained and processed on the Elections ACT employment database and payment details transferred to Shared Services for payment. This arrangement worked well.

Elections ACT upgraded the staffing element of the election management database after the 2008 election. This upgrade was complemented by a new online casual work and payment details system. This system enabled people to register their interest in casual work and to accept offers of employment online, together with the provision for staff to enter their personal details, including bank, superannuation and taxation details. This considerably reduced the amount of manual data entry required by Elections ACT office staff.

The following table sets out the staff employed by Elections ACT to conduct the 2012 election. As some employees worked in more than one capacity, these employees may be listed in more than one category in this table.

Table 21 – Staff employed during the 2012 election

Staff category	Number of staff
Statutory office holders	3
Permanent Public Sector Management Act staff	6
Contract Public Sector Management Act staff	6
Senior casual staff – election HQ	3
Casual staff – election HQ	66
Polling area managers	7
Officers in charge of polling places (including pre-polls)	80
Seconds in charge of polling places	76
Other polling day polling officials	398
Mobile polling officials	6
Pre-poll voting officials	66
Bilingual educators	7
Total	724

Training

Training of polling officials and casual staff is undertaken before every election.

Elections ACT employs 7 different categories of polling place staff during election time: officers in charge (OICs); seconds in charge (2ICs); issuing officers; mobile polling OICs; mobile polling issuing officers; pre-poll OICs; and pre-poll issuing officers. Each of these categories requires specific and tailored information.

For the 2012 election, Elections ACT introduced a new online training system for all polling staff. This system built upon the CD-ROM/online hybrid staff training system introduced in 2008. Content for the new fully web-based polling official training environment was developed in-house and delivered using a software package developed by a local digital media organisation, Cre8ive. Completing the online training was mandatory for all polling officials.

The training system integrated with the new online casual work application and payment details system, sharing logon and password details to minimise system complexity for the casual staff. The login details for each staff member were linked to the staffing category for which they were to be employed, ensuring a seamless delivery of the specific information relevant to each staff member.

Upon logging in, staff were presented with information in a logical, simple path, with each text section followed by interactive questions relating to the information they had just completed reading. At the completion of each section staff would be presented with the assessment results they achieved for that section. For any questions answered incorrectly staff were informed of the correct response and information on why. Staff could log out at any time with the ability to continue where they left off, upon the next successful login. At all times staff had an easy to understand graphical representation of system progress and an indication of remaining content.

The web-based system contained modularised text sections that were delivered to staff depending on each staff member's particular staff category. Many of the text modules were relevant to multiple staff categories; using this modular structure enabled changes to the text to be in one place so that updates would be automatically disseminated across the training packages of all relevant staffing categories.

Textual information was supplemented by graphics and video content.

Hardcopy training manuals were still made available within the polling place for staff referral, if required.

The new system was received well by staff.

Senior polling staff such as OICs, 2ICs and mobile polling staff also received face-to-face training in the weeks before polling day. The 3 hour long sessions were conducted by experienced Elections ACT staff. Sessions were tailored to the roles the polling staff would undertake, with an emphasis on practical exercises and time for group discussion. The sessions were regarded highly by participants.

All polling staff who did not attend a face-to-face training session were provided with a briefing on polling day prior to commencing duties.

Elections ACT will again review the training operation for the 2016 election.

Election equipment

The conduct of a Legislative Assembly election is essentially a large logistical exercise that, while planned during the period between elections, can only come together in a short time, and to an immutable deadline.

Many of the items used at an election cannot be finalised until well into the election period, particularly those that require inclusion of polling place addresses or candidate names. Included in this category is the audio for electronic voting by the blind and vision impaired as it includes the names of candidates. The final professional recording of the candidate names, the set-up of the audio into the electronic voting system and the installation of that system in the 6 pre-poll centres must be completed between the declaration of nominations and the opening of pre-poll voting, a period of 3½ days, including a weekend. During this same period, the ballot papers for the election must be typeset, proof-read and printed. This task is made more complex by the fact that there are 60 Robson rotation versions of each of the Brindabella and Ginninderra ballot papers, and 420 versions of the Molonglo ballot paper.

The following table sets out a number of key aspects of the election that illustrates the scale of the task of equipping an ACT Legislative Assembly election.

Table 22 – Materials required for the 2012 ACT election

Item	Number
Polling places hired	87
Voting screens and other cardboard equipment	2,240
Ballot boxes of various sizes	365
Ballot papers printed	298,550
Barcodes printed	140,950
Electronic voting computers	126
Polling place issuing point and OIC netbooks	787
Powerboards	339
Extension cords	274
Barcode readers	120
Declaration vote envelopes	6,880
Electoral enrolment forms issued	16,350
Polling official and scrutineer badges	1,173

Some significant savings on election equipment were achieved by the Commission in the following areas:

- ◇ Polling place equipment. After each federal election, Elections ACT arranges with the AEC (where practicable) for the recovery of suitable cardboard polling place equipment used at the federal election, and then stores that equipment for use at the next ACT election. This arrangement was again entered into after the 2010 federal election. On this occasion, Elections ACT was able to arrange storage space for the equipment that was owned by the ACT government, saving a considerable amount. (It may not be possible to use cardboard provided by the AEC in 2016, as it is likely that there will be a federal election at around the same time as the ACT election.)

- ◇ Hire of ICT equipment. In 2008, the computers and monitors used for electronic voting and ballot paper scanning were hired from a commercial provider. In 2012 computers used for electronic voting were borrowed from the AEC for minimal cost, while monitors used for electronic voting and scanning and computers used for scanning were hired from Shared Services ICT at a reduced rate as they came off lease from other agencies. The netbooks used in polling places for eLAPPS, including electronic electoral rolls, were borrowed from the Tasmanian Electoral Commission for minimal cost. These arrangements resulted in significant cost savings.
- ◇ Printing. For 2012, Elections ACT reduced its printing budget by replacing the provision of printed information, guides and manuals with an electronic supply of the information on novelty robot-shaped USB thumb drives, dubbed the “e-lector”. These were provided to political parties, candidates and the media. The concept of electronic provision of information was well received, with the added benefit of all but eliminating the need to supply large quantities of printed manuals.

Election funding, expenditure and financial disclosure

The *Electoral Amendment Act 2012* made substantial changes to the ACT election funding, expenditure and financial disclosure scheme. The changes took effect from 1 July 2012. A summary of the changes is included under **Legislative changes made since the 2008 election** at page 10.

The ACT's election funding, expenditure and financial disclosure scheme consists of 4 components:

- ◇ Public funding of election campaign expenditure and party/MLA administrative expenditure;
- ◇ Limits on the amount of electoral expenditure that may be incurred;
- ◇ Limits on the amount of gifts that may be received, that are used to incur electoral expenditure; and
- ◇ Disclosure of the financial transactions of registered political parties, political party groupings, MLAs, associated entities, candidates, third party campaigners, broadcasters and publishers.

Additional funding of \$823k was provided to the Commission for the 2012/2013 year to enable the Commission to implement the new provisions that commenced on 1 July 2012. This funding included increased public funding to parties and candidates, a new administrative expenditure fund for MLAs, funding for new on-line disclosure forms and back-end database enhancements, funding for additional auditing of compliance with the disclosure scheme and funding for additional staff to administer the expanded disclosure provisions.

Public funding

Registered political parties and non-party candidates who receive a specified minimum number of formal votes are eligible to receive public funding.

To qualify, a group of candidates endorsed by a registered party in an electorate must receive at least 4% of the formal first preference votes counted in that electorate. Each candidate that is not endorsed by a registered political party must also receive 4% of the formal first preference votes counted in that electorate to qualify.

The ACT scheme for public funding is a formula based direct entitlement scheme, involving automatic payments to parties and candidates calculated by multiplying the total number of first preference votes received by a prescribed amount, adjusted each 6 months by the all groups consumer price index issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The *Electoral Amendment Act 2012* made a number of changes to the election funding, expenditure and financial disclosure scheme operating for ACT Legislative Assembly elections. The amendments, which came into effect on 1 July 2012 included a provision to increase the prescribed amount for the 2012 and future elections. For the 2012 election the new prescribed amount was set at \$2 per eligible vote.

The public funding payments made with respect to the 2012 ACT election are provided in the following table.

Table 23 – Public funding at the 2012 election

Political party	Public funding amount
Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch)	\$171,982
Australian Motorist Party	\$9,588
Bullet Train for Canberra	\$8,222
Liberal Party of Australia (A.C.T. Division)	\$172,064
The ACT Greens	\$47,546
TOTAL	\$409,402

Limits on election campaign expenditure

Under the changes to the Electoral Act that came into force on 1 July 2012, limits on ACT election campaign expenditure were imposed on political entities. These expenditure caps related to expenditure on ACT election campaigns during the capped expenditure period, which commenced for the 2012 election on 1 July 2012 and concluded on polling day, 20 October 2012. The capped expenditure period will start on 1 January in election years from 2016. The expenditure caps are:

- ◇ \$60,000 per candidate to a maximum of 17 for party groupings (with a maximum of 5 in each of Brindabella and Ginninderra, and 7 in Molonglo);
- ◇ \$60,000 per non-party MLA or non-party candidate; and
- ◇ \$60,000 per third party campaigner.

Two cases arose during the election where it appeared that the expenditure cap had been breached. According to election disclosure returns by 2 third party campaigners made public on the Elections ACT website, it appeared that the Australian Home Heating Association Inc had spent \$60,776.78 and the Law Society of the ACT had spent \$60,604 on ACT election expenditure.

Under section 205G of the Electoral Act, where a third-party campaigner exceeds the expenditure cap for an election, the expender is liable to pay a penalty to the ACT equal to twice the amount by which the expenditure exceeds the expenditure cap for the election.

In March 2013 the Electoral Commissioner wrote to each of these third-party campaigners informing them of their apparent breach of this provision. Subsequently, the Australian Home Heating Association Inc paid a penalty of \$1,553.56 and the Law Society of the ACT paid a penalty of \$1,208.

Limits on gifts

Under the changes to the Electoral Act that came into force on 1 July 2012, a range of limits on gifts that may be received for ACT election campaign purposes were imposed on political entities. These limits included:

- ◇ A donor may give no more than \$10,000 in one financial year to an ACT political entity, for use on ACT election expenditure;
- ◇ Only enrolled ACT electors can make donations to ACT political entities for ACT election purposes; and
- ◇ A party, MLA, associated entity or candidate may not accept more than \$25,000 in small anonymous gifts of \$250 or less in a financial year.

As at the time of writing this report, no evidence of any breaches of these provisions had been obtained. The Commissioner has commenced a series of audits of political entities with disclosure obligations to monitor compliance with these provisions. Investigations into transactions that occurred in relation to the 2012 election will not be completed until the annual disclosure returns for the 2012/2013 year have been submitted and audited.

Disclosure of financial transactions

One of the changes introduced on 1 July 2012 was to require registered political parties, MLAs and associated entities to lodge their annual returns with the Electoral Commissioner by 31 July after the financial year to which the return relates. The returns were then to be made public at the beginning of September. A transitional amendment made this applicable to the 2011/2012 financial year returns. This meant that the details of receipts, including gifts, for the 2011/2012 financial year were available to the public before voting commenced for the 2012 election.

Another of the changes effective from 1 July 2012 was the requirement for electoral participants, other than third-party campaigners, to lodge returns of gifts of \$1,000 or more with the Electoral Commissioner within 7 days of their receipt. In non-election periods the returns must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of the gift. The Electoral Commissioner must then make these returns public as soon as practicable. In practice this was usually achieved within a day or so. Up to polling day 59 separate gifts, totalling \$108,034, had been disclosed and published on the Elections ACT website.

Following the 2012 election, election returns outlining donations received and expenditure on electoral matter were received from non-party candidates and third-party campaigners, and election returns outlining details of electoral expenditure were also received from all registered political parties that contested the election. Election disclosure returns outlining details of those who bought electoral advertising were received from 6 publishers and 5 broadcasters. The requirement for returns from donors to electoral participants was removed with effect from 1 July 2012.

All election returns received before the due publication date were made available for public inspection on 1 February 2013. Returns were made available at the office of the Electoral Commissioner and on the Elections ACT website. This publication date was also brought forward as part of the amendments that took effect from 1 July 2012. For previous elections the publication date was in April of the year after the election.

Review of the implementation of the election funding, expenditure and financial disclosure scheme in 2012

The amendments to the election funding, expenditure and financial disclosure scheme were passed by the Legislative Assembly in May 2012 and were effective from 1 July 2012. This short timeframe for implementation gave rise to issues both for the Commission and electoral participants. The Commission offered briefing sessions to party administrations and a number of sessions, meetings and conversations were held to assist the parties to meet the reporting requirements.

In this early phase of the new scheme, the Commission took the view that it was important to be assisting parties to comply through providing information and education rather than enforcing compliance through penalties. This approach also included the offer of conducting an informal audit of the accounts of political parties with a view to bringing to the attention of the parties any inconsistencies with the new provisions. The parliamentary parties took up this offer.

During the conduct of the election a number of issues arose and are discussed below.

Reporting of gifts of \$1,000 or more

The requirement for party groupings to disclose the receipt of gifts of \$1000 or more within 7 days of their receipt during the election expenditure period proved difficult to implement in some cases.

Political parties commented during discussions that their usual accounting processes were geared to monthly reconciliation of bank accounts and income and expenditure. As a result, manual intervention on a weekly basis was required to meet the 7 day reporting deadline.

While it is apparent that this reporting requirement was met in most cases, it was made clear that the parties had difficulty with meeting the 7 day reporting deadline. One suggestion made during discussions was that reporting of gifts be aligned with other reporting requirements, such as the taxation Business Activity Statement (BAS) and other reporting arrangements, such as issue of bank statements, that occur on a monthly basis.

The scheme as legislated provides for a period of grace of 30 days for parties to correct errors in depositing or receiving gifts and thereby avoid penalties for any breach of the Electoral Act relating to these matters. Arguably, the application of this period of grace conflicts with the requirement for 7 day reporting.

The Commission **recommends** that the requirement for reporting of gifts received of \$1000 or more within 7 days of their receipt during the expenditure period (from 1 January in an election year until polling day from 2016) be re-examined by the Assembly.

Federal election account

Section 205I(4) of the Electoral Act provides that gifts received by a party grouping or non-party candidate from other than an ACT elector must be paid into a federal election account. However, as the term "federal election account" is not defined, the enforcement of this requirement is problematic, as it is not clear what restrictions apply to this account.

The Commission **recommends** that the requirement for a federal election account be re-examined by the Assembly with a view to improving the workability of section 205I(4) of the Electoral Act.

ACT election account

Several of the changes introduced on 1 July 2012 require political entities to maintain an ACT election account held with a financial institution. This requirement caused some concern to some political participants. It was suggested to the Commission that it was unnecessary and could more readily be accommodated through existing accounting methods, such as sub-accounts within the party finances. In some cases, particularly third party campaigners who were not identified as such by the Commission until after they had incurred electoral expenditure, the requirement to establish an ACT election account was not known to them until after the relevant transactions had taken place.

The ACT election account mechanism was adopted to facilitate the management and regulation of the new limits on donations and expenditure. Given the concerns expressed with this mechanism, it may be appropriate to review this requirement to determine whether an alternative approach may be preferable.

The Commission **recommends** that the need for political participants to hold an ACT election account with a financial institution be re-examined by the Assembly.

Small anonymous gifts

The changes commencing in July 2012 introduced a new definition of "small anonymous gift" that is arguably inconsistent with the existing (unchanged) treatment of anonymous gifts in the Electoral Act.

Section 216 of the Electoral Act provides a definition of small anonymous gifts as those gifts made anonymously of \$250 or less. Section 222(3) provides that a party, MLA or associated entity must not accept a small anonymous gift in a financial year if acceptance of the gift means that the total of small anonymous gifts given to that entity would be more than \$25,000 in the year.

However, section 222(1) provides that anonymous gifts of up to \$1,000 may be received.

This situation has led to an anomaly whereby any number of anonymous gifts of between \$250 and \$1,000 may be received.

The Commission suggests this is a loophole that should be addressed.

Further, section 216A(2) requires that a receiver of a gift must record the defined details of the gift (name and address of the giver and the amount of the gift) unless the gift is a small anonymous gift. On the face of it, this requirement extends to an anonymous gift of between \$250 and \$1000, but is clearly not possible.

If the intent of the amendments made in 2012 was to limit anonymous donations to \$250, then it is not clear as to the need for any reference to small anonymous donations, as all anonymous donations would fall into this category, and could be referred to as simply "anonymous" donations.

These apparent anomalies could be addressed by standardising the level of permitted anonymous donation to either \$250 or \$1,000.

The Commission **recommends** that either section 222(1) be amended to cap anonymous donations at \$250, instead of \$1,000, or section 216 be amended to raise the threshold for small anonymous gifts from \$250 to \$1,000. The Commission also **recommends** that use of the phrase "small anonymous donations" be removed from the Electoral Act and replaced with the phrase "anonymous donations".

Gifts from other than ACT electors

Section 205I(4) of the Electoral Act provides that gifts from other than an ACT elector must be paid into the federal election account. On the face of it, this means that anonymous donations must also be paid into the federal election account. This could apply to small anonymous gifts received at party fundraisers, for example. Given that the Electoral Act provides for legitimate receipt of anonymous gifts below the set threshold, it is arguable that there is no policy reason why parties and others should not be permitted to use such anonymous donations for ACT election purposes. It is suggested that was not intended by the 2012 amendments to the Electoral Act.

The Commission **recommends** that section 205I(4) of the Electoral Act be amended to provide that it does not require anonymous donations to be paid into a federal election account.

Disclosure period for third party campaigners

There appears to be an anomaly in the operation of the Electoral Act with respect to the definition of the disclosure period as applied to third party campaigners arising from a drafting omission.

Section 201 of the Electoral Act defines the disclosure period for candidates and third party campaigners. However, section 201(2)(c) only applies this definition to third party campaigners to which section 220 applies. Section 220 relates only to a subset of third party campaigners: those that have received gifts during the disclosure period. Section 220 does not apply to other third-party campaigners such as those who have undertaken expenditure but who have not received gifts. It appears that the reference to section 220 in section 201(2)(c) should have been removed when the 2012 amendments were made extending the disclosure obligations of third-party campaigners.

The Commission **recommends** that the reference to section 220 in the definition of "disclosure day" in relation to third-party campaigners in section 201(2)(c) of the Electoral Act be removed.

Definition of third-party campaigner

There appears to be an anomaly in the definition of third-party campaigner. Section 198 of the Electoral Act provides that a third-party campaigner means a person or entity that incurs more than \$1,000 in electoral expenditure. Generally, thresholds in the disclosure scheme start at \$1,000. This provision appears to be a drafting error, and should refer to expenditure of \$1,000 or more.

The Commission **recommends** that the definition of third-party campaigner in section 198 of the Electoral Act be amended to replace the reference to "more than \$1,000" with "\$1,000 or more".

The definition of third-party campaigner excludes from the definition "a government agency". This is intended to ensure that government agencies that may incur electoral expenditure are not treated as, or subject to, the restrictions imposed on third-party campaigners. To give effect to this intent, it would be consistent to exclude all government agencies from all levels of government from this definition. However, the definition of "government agency" in the Electoral Act only covers ACT Government agencies. It does not include federal, State, other Territory or local government agencies. It is suggested this definition should be amended to cover all such agencies.

The Commission **recommends** that the definition of third-party campaigner in section 198 of the Electoral Act be amended to exclude from the definition government agencies from any Australian government.

Reporting agents

Section 203 of the Electoral Act provides that a party, MLA or candidate may appoint a reporting agent. Reporting agents take on responsibilities for making disclosures of receipts (including gifts), expenditure and loans required under the Electoral Act on behalf of the appointing entity. Appointment notices are given to the Electoral Commissioner by the appointing entity and entered into a register of reporting agents kept by the Commissioner.

The appointment of a reporting agent is cancelled by the Commissioner when the agent gives the Commissioner notice of their resignation, when the appointing entity gives the Commissioner notice that the person appointed has ceased to be the reporting agent, or when it comes to the notice of the Commissioner that the appointed person can no longer exercise the functions of a reporting agent.

It is apparent that more than one person can be appointed at any one time as a reporting agent for the same entity. One registered party currently has 2 appointed reporting agents.

That more than one person can be a reporting agent for an entity may lead to a situation where the responsibility for providing disclosure returns is unclear. For example, should disclosure returns not be lodged or be incomplete, and prosecution be pursued, it is unclear as to which agent is responsible.

To clarify this situation, the Commission **recommends** that section 203 of the Electoral Act be amended to make it clear that only one reporting agent can be appointed at any one time for the same entity, and that the appointment of an agent automatically cancels the appointment of any previously appointed agent.

The amendments made in 2012 have inadvertently created some anomalies with respect to the reporting obligations of reporting agents and their appointing entities.

While a non-party MLA and a non-party candidate may appoint a reporting agent:

- ◇ sections 224(2) and (3) require the non-party MLA and non-party candidate, respectively, to be personally responsible for lodging election returns of electoral expenditure; and
- ◇ section 216A requires the financial representative of a non-party MLA and non-party candidate to lodge returns of gifts received of \$1000 or more; under section 198, the financial representative of a non-party MLA and non-party candidate is the MLA and candidate, respectively, not the reporting agent.

The only return that can be lodged by a non-party MLA reporting agent is the MLA's annual return (section 230), and the only return that can be lodged by a non-party candidate is the candidate's election return of gifts received (section 217).

The Commission **recommends** that the Electoral Act be amended to make reporting agents, where appointed, responsible for the lodgement of all disclosure returns by parties, MLAs and candidates.

Payments for administrative expenditure not to be used for local government purposes

Section 215G(1)(b) of the Electoral Act provides that an amount paid to a party or non-party MLA for administrative expenditure must not be used for electoral expenditure in relation to an ACT, federal, State or local election.

The reference to a "local election" is ambiguous, as it could be taken to mean any kind of ballot. In the context of this provision, "local election" is intended to mean "local government election".

The Commission **recommends** that section 215G(1)(b) of the Electoral Act be amended to replace "local election" with "local government election".

Compulsory voting

Voting is compulsory for ACT elections. It is an offence for an enrolled elector to fail to vote at an election without a valid and sufficient reason.

There were 27,577 electors who apparently did not vote at the 2012 election.

The 2012 election saw an increase in the number and percentage of apparent non-voters compared to the 2008 election, and represents the highest percentage of apparent non-voters of any ACT Assembly election.

A significant factor impacting on the ACT's relatively poor turnout is the fact, observed at all previous ACT elections, that Territory elections do not achieve the same level of turnout achieved at federal elections. A comparison with State, Territory and federal elections indicates that State and Territory elections simply do not attract the same level of participation from electors. This could be the result of a number of factors, including greater engagement with federal politics and the greater national and international media coverage devoted to federal elections.

The following table show the percentage of apparent non-voters for ACT elections since 1995.

Table 24 - Percentage of non-voters at ACT elections

1995	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
10.5%	8.1%	9.1%	7.2%	9.6%	10.7%

The following table shows the percentage of non-voters at each of the most recent State/Territory and federal elections.

Table 25 - Percentage of non-voters at federal/State elections

State or Territory	2010	2011	2012	2013
NSW		7.4%		
Vic	7.0%			
QLD			9.0%	
WA				10.8%
SA	7.1%			
Tas	6.1%			
ACT			10.7%	
NT			23.1%	
Federal	6.2%			

By subtracting the number of votes counted from the total enrolment, a total of 27,577 electors had apparently failed to vote at the 2012 election. However, this calculation does not take account of electors who attempted to vote and had their votes rejected (such as postal voters who did not sign their declaration) or of declaration voters whose names were not included on the roll but whose votes were admitted to the count. A total of 9,759 apparent non-voters were not sent failure to vote notices as they had notified Elections ACT of a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote, or their postal or declaration votes were not admitted to the count, or they had transferred their enrolment interstate.

On 4 December 2012 Elections ACT sent 19,097 notices to apparent non-voters.

On 4 February 2013 Elections ACT sent reminder notices to the 9,777 apparent non-voters who had failed to reply by that time. On 8 March 2013 Elections ACT sent notices of possible prosecution to the 5,083 apparent non-voters who had failed to reply to the reminder notice. This third notice was sent by registered mail, requiring the recipient to sign an acknowledgment of receipt.

At the time of preparing this report, Elections ACT was liaising with the ACT Magistrates Court for the issue of summonses to the 1,553 electors who had failed to reply to the notice of possible prosecution, and to those electors who provided a reason that was taken not to be valid and sufficient and who had not subsequently paid the failure to vote penalty.

The following table outlines the replies received up to 23 May 2013, compared with the total replies for the 2004 and 2008 elections. Non-voter processes will continue into the 2013/2014 year.

Table 26 – Non-voter statistics for the 2004, 2008 and 2012 elections

Details	2004	2008	2012
Total enrolment	226,098	243,471	256,702
Votes counted	209,749	220,019	229,125
Number of apparent non-voters	16,349	23,452	27,577
Valid reason for not voting provided before notices sent ¹	7,029	8,119	9,623
Number of electors sent non-voters notice²	11,396	16,673	19,097
Elector claimed to have voted	873	307	801
Elector unable to vote due to mental incapacity or being infirm	107	120	45
Elector deceased	18	15	12
Other valid and sufficient reason provided	4,210	5,291	4,533
\$20 penalty paid	1,953	3,422	4,250
Elector moved permanently interstate or overseas	793	1,518	2,238
Letter returned undelivered	2,775	5,481	6,048
No valid and sufficient reason provided and penalty not paid	17	23	17
No reply	650	496	1,153

Note 1: Includes electors whose postal or declaration votes were not admitted to the count, electors who provided valid reasons in person or by telephone, letter or email, and electors who transferred their enrolment interstate before notices were sent.

Note 2: The number of notices sent and the number of valid reasons provided before notices were sent do not sum to the total number of apparent non-voters because some electors who did in fact vote were sent non-voter notices as their names were not correctly marked as having voted in polling places and because some electors who were not enrolled had their votes admitted to the count following the declaration vote scrutiny.

These statistics indicate some notable results. After the 2008 election, 307 electors who were sent non-voter notices claimed to have voted, compared to 801 such electors in 2012. This appears to indicate that the number of errors by polling officials made using eLAPPS in 2012 was greater than the number of errors evident after the 2012 election, when an electronic PDA-based system was used. The 2012 result was similar to the 2004 result of 873, when hand-marked certified lists were electronically scanned. This result indicates that improvements could be made in the eLAPPS interface to ensure that electors presenting to vote are correctly marked as having voted.

The fact that 6,048 non-voter notices were returned undelivered after the 2012 election, compared to 5,481 non-voter notices returned undelivered after the 2008 election and 2,775 notices returned undelivered after the 2004 election, would appear to indicate that the roll continues to be inflated as a result of roll maintenance practices failing to identify and remove the names of electors who have left the ACT. Another explanation for this number may be that some recipients of these letters refused to accept them and returned them to sender.

A total of 4,250 electors paid the \$20 penalty for failure to vote in 2008, thereby generating \$85,000 in revenue, a marked increase on the 3,422 electors who paid the \$20 penalty for failure to vote in 2008 and the 1,953 electors who paid the penalty in 2004.

The number of non-voters who did not respond to their non-voter notice increased significantly from 496 in 2008 to 1,153 in 2012.

It is possible that the marked increase since 2004 in the number of non-voters choosing to pay the \$20 penalty for failing to vote and the marked increase in the number of electors failing to respond to non-voter notices may be due at least in part to the low value of the penalty. For some electors, it may be that the \$20 penalty is not a sufficient incentive to encourage them to vote. This in turn may have contributed to the record low turnout in 2012.

It is noteworthy that only the ACT, Western Australia and the Commonwealth currently have a \$20 penalty. For federal elections, the \$20 penalty has remained unchanged since the electoral reforms of 1984. The Western Australia penalty increases to \$50 if the elector has previously paid a penalty or been convicted of failing to vote. The penalty notice fines in other jurisdictions range from \$25 in the Northern Territory to \$70 in Victoria and South Australia. The penalty in New South Wales and Queensland is \$55, and in Tasmania the penalty is \$26.

Given the above considerations, the Commission **recommends** that the penalty notice fine for failing to vote at ACT Legislative Assembly elections should be increased.

Multiple voting

After every election, the records of electors who have voted are checked to determine if it appears that any names have been marked as having voted more than once. At each ACT election, there are typically fewer than 100 names that have been marked as having voted more than once after apparent cases of obvious polling official error have been discounted.

In most cases, investigations indicate that these instances of apparent multiple voting are the result of errors made by polling officials – generally marking a name similar to the elector’s name – or result from persons claiming to vote who are not enrolled at all but who have names similar to enrolled electors.

It is rare to find evidence that a person has deliberately voted more than once, which is a relatively serious offence, with a penalty of 50 penalty units, or imprisonment for 6 months, or both. In those cases where there is evidence that a person has voted more than once, there are generally mitigating circumstances. For example, persons with memory loss may vote by post and then vote a second time at a mobile polling team. No one has ever been prosecuted for multiple voting at an ACT election. Most cases of apparent multiple voting can be attributed to polling official error.

While multiple voting has not proven to be a significant problem, it is recognised that, under the usual Australian method of providing stand-alone electoral rolls in polling places, the potential for deliberate multiple voting to occur without on-the-spot detection does exist. At the 2008 election, the Commission introduced stand-alone electronic electoral rolls in polling places for marking of voters’ names. This system proved effective in reducing costs and increasing the effectiveness of roll marking, compared to the traditional system of using printed and scanned rolls. This system did not change the possibility that people may deliberately vote more than once at multiple locations.

At the 2012 election, the Commission took advantage of the deployment of the eLAPPS electronic polling place system to introduce networked electoral rolls across all ACT polling places and pre-poll centres. Under this system, a voter’s name marked on one electronic roll would be automatically marked off as having voted on all other networked eLAPPS computers in all polling places within a few minutes. In practice, network connection problems meant that not all names were marked off all other electronic rolls; however in most cases this system functioned effectively.

The eLAPPS roll-marking system was intended to reduce the opportunity for people to fraudulently vote more than once. It identified 123 cases where a person presenting to vote had already had their name marked off as a result of someone else voting earlier. Each of these voters were issued with a declaration vote. Investigation of these cases indicated that none of these votes appeared to have been cases where the named elector had voted twice. All but 5 of these votes were admitted to the count. One was rejected as it was not signed by the elector, and 4 were rejected as the elector was issued a vote for an incorrect electorate.

Another aspect of the introduction of the eLAPPS system is the ability to check records of voters who have returned a completed postal vote with the records of electors who have been marked as having voted at a polling place before the postal votes are opened and admitted to the count. This has not been possible in the past as it has taken some time to reconcile the list of electors marked as having cast ordinary votes with the list of electors who have returned postal votes. This process was used for the first time at the 2012 election and identified one case where an elderly voter had cast both an ordinary vote and a postal vote. The postal vote was not included in the count as a result.

The eLAPPS system of networked marking of names across all polling places during polling was not instantaneous, with a time lag between names being marked and marked names being replicated across the network. In addition, some machines failed to connect to the network for some or all of the polling time. Therefore it was still possible for a name to be marked as having voted across more than one roll.

Following the reconciliation of the marking of all voter's names from all rolls on the eLAPPS netbook computers, including the names of postal and declaration voters, and after culling for obvious polling official error, Elections ACT concluded that 72 names had been marked twice on the certified lists without an apparent explanation. Of these, 22 names were of Brindabella electors, 28 of Ginninderra electors and 22 of Molonglo electors. This compares with 72 such names marked twice in 2008.

All 72 electors whose name was marked more than once were sent a letter asking for details of their voting history at the election. Of these 65 replied and claimed to have voted only once. Many of these cases appeared to have involved a mix-up with other electors with the same or a similar name (for example, a father and son) by polling officials. While it cannot be proven or quantified, evidence suggests that some of the instances of the wrong elector being marked relate to people who were not enrolled being issued a vote in the name of a person who was on the roll.

Of the 72 people sent correspondence, 5 did not respond and 2 letters were returned to sender unclaimed.

The Commission considers that these results indicate that this low level of apparent multiple voting is not indicative of any organised attempt to fraudulently influence the result of the election.

However, the number of names apparently marked more than once in error by polling officials indicates that there is room for improvement in the eLAPPS interface used by polling officials. Elections ACT will review the operation of the eLAPPS system and operator instructions with a view to further reducing the likelihood of incorrect marking of names on the roll.

Ballot paper surveys

After every ACT election, the Commission conducts surveys of the marking of informal and formal votes to determine whether any patterns of behaviour can be deduced in order to inform future election information campaigns.

Informal vote survey

The informal rate for the 2012 election was 3.5%, down slightly from 3.8% in 2008.

Table 27 - Informal voting in the ACT

1989	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
5.7%	6.5%	6.7%	4.3%	4.0%	3.0%	3.8%	3.5%

The following table provides the results of a survey of all informal paper ballots, categorised by the reason for their informality.

Table 28 – Breakdown of informal paper ballots by reason for informality

Reason for informality	Brindabella		Ginninderra		Molonglo		ACT Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Ballot papers that identify the elector	8	0.4%	3	0.1%	8	0.4%	19	0.3%
Ballot papers totally blank	625	28.3%	628	29.9%	692	31.3%	1945	29.8%
Ballot papers informal because the voter has "written in" a candidate	55	2.5%	41	2.0%	59	2.7%	155	2.4%
Ballot papers with numbers but no number 1	53	2.4%	32	1.5%	51	2.3%	136	2.1%
Ballot papers with a first preference in every box	39	1.8%	32	1.5%	29	1.3%	100	1.5%
Ballot papers containing marks, writing, lines, scribbles, slogans, stickers only	593	26.9%	491	23.4%	573	25.9%	1657	25.4%
Ballot papers containing ticks, crosses, some numbers, no unique first preference	825	37.4%	848	40.4%	787	35.5%	2460	37.7%
Apparent "above the line votes" – a preference for one or more parties	4	0.2%	8	0.4%	8	0.4%	20	0.3%
Ballot papers issued for the wrong electorate	3	0.1%		0.0%		0.0%	3	0.0%
Others	1	0.0%	15	0.7%	7	0.3%	23	0.4%
Total informal ballot papers	2206	100.0%	2098	100.0%	2214	100.0%	6518	100.0%

The following table shows the number of informal paper ballots and informal electronic ballots cast, giving the total number of informal ballots cast at the election.

Table 29 – Summary of paper and electronic informal ballots

	Brindabella		Ginninderra		Molonglo		ACT Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Total informal paper ballots	2206	83.8%	2098	81.7%	2214	80.4%	6518	82.0%
Total informal ballots using electronic voting	425	16.2%	471	18.3%	539	19.6%	1435	18.0%
Total informal ballots in the election	2631	100.0%	2569	100.0%	2753	100.0%	7953	100.0%
Total ballots in the election	66193		68645		94287		229125	
Proportion of informal to total ballots		4.0%		3.7%		2.9%		3.5%

In 2008, this survey included the number of discarded electronic vote barcodes. There were 295 barcodes identified as discarded in electronic polling places in 2008. As a result of the introduction of the eLAPPS system in 2012, it was not possible to accurately count the number of voters who were issued with electronic votes who did not correctly record an electronic vote. It is estimated that this number was around 180. However, as this number is an estimate, the number of apparently discarded electronic votes is not formally reported in the official 2012 Election Statistics or in this report.

The following table compares the informal rate of paper and electronic ballots where electors swiped their barcodes to confirm they were casting an informal vote. More detailed tables showing the numbers of electronic votes cast are included at Appendix 1.

Table 30 - Comparison of rate of informal voting – paper v electronic ballots

	Brindabella		Ginninderra		Molonglo		ACT Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Informal paper ballots	2206	4.4%	2098	4.2%	2214	3.2%	6518	3.8%
Total paper ballots	50445		50499		68981		169925	
Informal electronic ballots	425	2.7%	471	2.6%	539	2.1%	1435	2.4%
Total electronic ballots	15748		18146		25306		59200	
Total Informal ballots	2631	4.0%	2569	3.7%	2753	2.9%	7953	3.5%
Total ballots	66193		68645		94287		229125	

It is not clear for the bulk of the electronic (totally blank) ballots whether they represent an intentional action by the voter, or if there has been an unintentional or incorrect use of the electronic voting system by the voter. There is no way of determining the voter's intention in these cases. However, there is evidence that 212 electors appeared to have inadvertently committed their electronic votes before completing their order of preferences. It is possible that some of these voters inadvertently cast informal electronic votes by swiping their barcodes to start their votes, pressing the "finish" key without selecting any preferences, bringing up a warning screen stating that to continue would result in an informal ballot, and then swiping their barcode a second time to effectively cast an informal vote. (See **Useability issues arising at the 2012 election** on page 35.)

By contrast, the paper ballots that are left blank, as well as those with only writing, lines and scribbles, or “written in” candidates could be considered to be intentionally informal - these categories account for 3,757 or 57.6% of informal paper ballots (compared to 49.8% in 2008). In addition, it is arguable that the majority of the informal ballots that have numbers but no first preference or a first preference in every box are intentional - these categories account for a further 236 or 3.6% of informal paper ballots (compared to 4.1% in 2008).

A total of 37.7% of informal paper voters used ticks or crosses or some numbers but no unique first preference (compared to 45.7% in 2008). Although it is likely that some of these are intentionally informal, it is probable that some are not, particularly those that have numbers 1 to n, in each column, where n is the number of candidates in the column. It is possible that these voter believed that they needed to vote for candidates starting with 1 in each column.

This was an area identified for improvement in the 2008 election report. As a result, added emphasis on correctly numbering ballot papers was included in the Commission’s information strategy. In particular, posters included in each voting compartment stressed correct numbering. It would appear from the drop in this category from 45.7% to 37.7% (842 fewer ballot papers in 2012) that this strategy had some impact on reducing inadvertent informal votes.

It is noteworthy that the proportion of informal votes cast by electronic voters were significantly less than the proportion of informal votes cast by voters using paper ballots. This followed the trend evident at the 2001, 2004 and 2008 elections. This outcome continues to show that voters using the electronic voting system are less likely to cast an informal vote. This in turn is an argument for extending the electronic voting system to as many voters as possible.

Formal vote survey

An examination of the formal votes cast can provide useful and interesting data on voting patterns. In particular the length of sequence of numbering of votes may provide some insight into the way voters interpret the instructions on the ballot paper, in Elections ACT information brochures and party and candidate canvassing material. It also provides an indication of the impact of the number of candidates, and the possible impact of electronic voting.

The fact that the preferences shown on all formal ballot papers are now recorded electronically means that, since the 2001 election, it has been feasible to tabulate a range of statistics that show how all electors have numbered preferences on their ballot papers.

Table 55 – Sequence breaks on formal ballot papers shows the number of formal ballot papers that omitted a preference number or duplicated a preference number, thereby breaking the sequence of preferences that can be taken into account in a Hare-Clark scrutiny. A total of 780 ballot papers contained a repeated number (compared to 1,142 in 2008 and 1,725 in 2001), and a total of 650 ballot papers missed a number in the sequence (compared to 863 in 2008 and 1,141 in 2001). Under the ACT’s Hare-Clark system, these ballot papers are still counted as formal, as they had a unique first preference. However, they could not be given full effect, with regard to any preferences shown after the break in sequence.

Most breaks in sequence occurred early in the sequence, with the number of mistakes tailing off as the number of preferences increases. This is to be expected, since over 70% of all formal voters only showed the recommended minimum number of preferences.

The reduction in the number of ballots with breaks in the sequence compared to 2008 may result from the fact that a higher proportion of votes were electronic, where sequence breaks are not possible. Another factor may be the increased focus on correct numbering in the Commission's information strategy. Again, this result supports the continued widespread use of electronic voting to reduce the likelihood of voters making inadvertent errors on their ballot papers.

Tables 56-58 – Length of sequence (see page 93 shows for each electorate in 2012 the length of sequence of each ballot paper, recording how far each elector indicated preferences in an unbroken sequence.

Around 97%-98% of all formal voters in 2012 followed the instructions on the ballot papers and indicated at least as many preferences as there were vacancies in the electorate. This result indicates that the instructions provided to voters were effective. Around 72% of formal voters indicated exactly as many preferences as there were vacancies in the electorate. That is, 5 preferences in Brindabella and Ginninderra and 7 preferences in Molonglo.

Around 26% of formal voters showed more than the instructed minimum number of preferences. Between 6.1% (in Ginninderra with 28 candidates) and 8.3% (in Brindabella with 20 candidates) of formal voters marked preferences for every candidate (with 7.1% in Molonglo with 26 candidates). These results indicate that, while around 7 out of 10 voters are inclined to cast "the recommended minimum" number of preferences, another 1 in 4 of voters take the opportunity to show more preferences than the recommended minimum. These results are similar to the results observed in 2008.

The formality rules accept as formal ballot papers that indicate at least a unique first preference, even if the instructed minimum number of preferences is not shown. Around 1.7% of electors in Brindabella, 1.6 % in Ginninderra and 2.5% of formal voters in Molonglo failed to number at least as many preferences as there were vacancies in the electorate. It is impossible to know how many of these votes were cast in the knowledge that these votes were not complying with the recommended minimum, but were nevertheless formal votes, and how many of these votes were the result of a failure to understand or follow the instructions. Whatever the reason, the number of ballot papers concerned is significant enough to make it worth keeping the current formality rules, while maintaining the general instruction to number at least as many candidates as there are vacancies in the electorate.

2012 election budget

The Commission's total expenditure for 2012/2103 is estimated to be around \$4.356 mil, including the cost of the 2012 election. The election itself, excluding ongoing staff and administration costs, cost around \$2.668 mil. For the first time, the Commission's non-election budget also included \$0.346 mil paid to political parties for administration purposes. In addition to these costs, the Commission was allocated capital funding of \$1.373 mil for election-related ICT projects over the 4 years from 2009/2010 to 2012/2013.

The Commission had sought and received additional budget funding for the 2012 election and future elections to cover increasing cost pressures. These included salary increases for polling officials and the rising cost of advertising, hire of polling places and ICT services, together with increases related to population growth. Additional funding was also provided to the Commission for the changes made to the electoral expenditure, funding and disclosure scheme. Capital funding for the upgrade of the Commission's ICT systems also reduced the pressure on the Commission's normal operational budget.

Owing to the focus in 2012/2013 on the 2012 election, the Commission did not spend all of the funds allocated to it for the campaign finance reforms. Accordingly, \$0.387 mil has been rolled over into the Commission's 2013/2014 budget.

Expenditure on the 2012 election and the election ICT projects was comfortably within the budget allocations. The Commission's 2012/2013 Annual Report will provide more detail on the Commission's budget outcomes for the financial year.

The following table shows the Commission's 2012 election expenditure broken down into main areas of expenditure. Note that not all the election expenditure will have been incurred in the 2012/2013 financial year. Some expenditure will have been incurred in earlier years, particularly relating to procurement of equipment, stores and storage. All election staff costs are included under the staff entry.

Table 31 – 2012 election expenditure

Expenditure	Cost \$ (GST excl)
Information campaign	404,297
Materials & general printing	53,177
Other ICT systems hosting and support	51,635
Public funding of parties and candidates	409,402
Scrutiny	198,575
Shared Services ICT project management costs & hardware hire costs	53,855
Staff	1,089,954
Tally room & visitor program	22,004
Venue hire	189,210
Voting (including electronic voting, postal voting, general voting and non-voters)	196,030
Total	2,668,139

Statutory independence – Officer of the Parliament status

On 2 November 2012 the Chief Minister, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, and the ACT Greens Member for Molonglo, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, signed the Parliamentary Agreement for the 8th ACT Legislative Assembly. Subject to this agreement, the ACT Greens indicated that they would support Ms Gallagher as the ACT Chief Minister.

Item 1.1(a) of Appendix 1 of the Parliamentary Agreement indicated that ACT Labor would support an ACT Greens bill for establishment of the Auditor General, the Electoral Commissioner and the Ombudsman as Officers of the Parliament.

An inquiry into the feasibility of establishing the position of Officer of the Parliament was conducted by the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure in 2011/2012. In its submission to this inquiry, the Commission made the following recommendation:

- ◇ That the Electoral Act be amended to provide that the Commission and the Commissioner are not subject to the direction or control of the Executive in respect of the performance or exercise of their functions or powers other than as explicitly provided in relevant legislation;
- ◇ That the Electoral Act be amended to explicitly provide that the Electoral Commissioner has all the powers of a chief executive under the Public Sector Management Act in relation to the staff employed to assist the Commissioner; and
- ◇ That relevant legislation be amended to facilitate allocation of funds directly to the office of the Electoral Commissioner and to give direct responsibility to the Commissioner for monies spent by the Commissioner.

The Commission noted that, while these changes would not require that the Commission become Officers of the Parliament, they would be consistent with that status.

The Commission supports making the 3 members of the ACT Electoral Commission Officers of the Parliament, on the basis that it will enable the above recommendations to be met, so as to strengthen the statutory independence of the Commission.

On 7 May 2013, Mr Rattenbury indicated in the Assembly that he intended to present a bill to make the Commissioner an Officer of the Parliament later in 2013.

This change will have the potential to make significant changes to the Commission, particularly in relation to budget, staffing and lines of reporting. The Commission will work with Mr Rattenbury and the Government to address these issues as the Commission makes the anticipated transition to an Office of the Parliament.

One aspect of the transition to an Office of the Parliament may be to assign formal oversight of the Commission and electoral matters to an Assembly committee. The Commission would welcome such a development. It is expected that one role of such a committee would be to review formal reports of the Commission such as this election report and the Commission's annual reports.

Appendix 1 – Summaries of first preference vote counts, including electronic votes and paper votes

This Appendix shows details of the total votes cast at the 2012 ACT election, and details of votes cast at the electronic voting polling places, including votes cast using electronic voting and votes cast using paper ballots.

Table 32 – Summary of all first preference votes

Party/ Group	Brindabella		Ginninderra		Molonglo		ACT Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
ALP	22665	35.7%	26354	39.9%	36972	40.4%	85991	38.9%
AMP	2488	3.9%	4794	7.3%	1897	2.1%	9179	4.2%
BTFC	2395	3.8%	2358	3.6%	4111	4.5%	8864	4.0%
CL	29496	46.4%	22275	33.7%	34261	37.4%	86032	38.9%
Greens	5032	7.9%	6676	10.1%	12065	13.2%	23773	10.7%
LDP	0	0.0%	1213	1.8%	1127	1.2%	2340	1.1%
MLSJP	0	0.0%	940	1.4%	0	0.0%	940	0.4%
Other	1486	2.3%	1466	2.2%	1101	1.2%	4053	1.8%
Formal	63562	96.0%	66076	96.3%	91534	97.1%	221172	96.5%
Informal	2631	4.0%	2569	3.7%	2753	2.9%	7953	3.5%
Total	66193	100.0%	68645	100.0%	94287	100.0%	229125	100.0%
Enrolment	72368		76140		108194		256702	
Total votes as % of enrolment		91.5%		90.2%		87.1%		89.3%
Evotes as % of total votes		23.8%		26.4%		26.8%		25.8%

Table 33 – Summary of all first preference votes at e-voting polling places

Party/ Group	Brindabella		Ginninderra		Molonglo		ACT Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
ALP	6690	34.7%	7824	38.5%	11557	39.2%	26071	37.7%
AMP	689	3.6%	1382	6.8%	641	2.2%	2712	3.9%
BTFC	734	3.8%	742	3.6%	1314	4.5%	2790	4.0%
CL	9183	47.7%	6991	34.4%	11152	37.8%	27326	39.6%
Greens	1537	8.0%	2230	11.0%	3957	13.4%	7724	11.2%
LDP	0	0.0%	489	2.4%	517	1.8%	1006	1.5%
MLSJP	0	0.0%	278	1.4%	0	0.0%	278	0.4%
Other	431	2.2%	397	2.0%	357	1.2%	1185	1.7%
Formal	19264	96.6%	20333	96.8%	29495	97.3%	69092	96.9%
Informal	688	3.4%	670	3.2%	823	2.7%	2181	3.1%
Total	19952	100.0%	21003	100.0%	30318	100.0%	71273	100.0%
Enrolment	72368		76140		108194		256702	
Total votes from all sources	66193		68645		94287		229125	
Total votes at evoting centres as % of total votes		30.1%		30.6%		32.2%		31.1%

Table 34 – Summary of electronic first preference votes at e-voting polling places

Party/ Group	Brindabella		Ginninderra		Molonglo		ACT Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
ALP	5304	34.6%	6724	38.0%	9651	39.0%	21679	37.5%
AMP	566	3.7%	1243	7.0%	557	2.2%	2366	4.1%
BTFC	655	4.3%	693	3.9%	1197	4.8%	2545	4.4%
CL	7082	46.2%	5989	33.9%	9143	36.9%	22214	38.5%
Greens	1365	8.9%	2018	11.4%	3470	14.0%	6853	11.9%
LDP	0	0.0%	422	2.4%	457	1.8%	879	1.5%
MLSJP	0	0.0%	231	1.3%	0	0.0%	231	0.4%
Other	351	2.3%	355	2.0%	292	1.2%	998	1.7%
Formal	15323	97.3%	17675	97.4%	24767	97.9%	57765	97.6%
Informal	425	2.7%	471	2.6%	539	2.1%	1435	2.4%
Total	15748	100.0%	18146	100.0%	25306	100.0%	59200	100.0%
Enrolment	72368		76140		108194		256702	
Total votes at evoting centres	19952		21003		30318		71273	
Evotes as % of total votes at evoting centres		78.9%		86.4%		83.5%		83.1%

Table 35 – Summary of paper first preference votes at e-voting polling places

Party/ Group	Brindabella		Ginninderra		Molonglo		ACT Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
ALP	1386	35.2%	1100	41.4%	1906	40.3%	4392	38.8%
AMP	123	3.1%	139	5.2%	84	1.8%	346	3.1%
BTFC	79	2.0%	49	1.8%	117	2.5%	245	2.2%
CL	2101	53.3%	1002	37.7%	2009	42.5%	5112	45.1%
Greens	172	4.4%	212	8.0%	487	10.3%	871	7.7%
LDP	0	0.0%	67	2.5%	60	1.3%	127	1.1%
MLSJP	0	0.0%	47	1.8%	0	0.0%	47	0.4%
Other	80	2.0%	42	1.6%	65	1.4%	187	1.7%
Formal	3941	93.7%	2658	93.0%	4728	94.3%	11327	93.8%
Informal	263	6.3%	199	7.0%	284	5.7%	746	6.2%
Total	4204	100.0%	2857	100.0%	5012	100.0%	12073	100.0%
Enrolment	71394		68358		103719		243471	
Total votes at evoting centres	19952		21003		30318		71273	
Paper votes as % of total votes at evoting centres		21.1%		13.6%		16.5%		16.9%

Appendix 2 – Market research findings on voter awareness and Elections ACT services

This Appendix shows detailed findings of the market research into voter awareness and satisfaction with polling place voter services and Elections ACT public awareness programs undertaken for the 2012 ACT election.

Results are shown compared to the equivalent results obtained from similar surveys undertaken during the 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2008 elections.

There were some minor variations in the wording of the questions used in the 2012 survey compared to earlier surveys. The questions listed are those asked in 2012.

Table 36 – Information sources used to locate an ACT polling place

Q: In which of these ways did you find out about the location of this polling place?

Response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
TV, radio and newspaper (news or advertisements)	34%	14%	12%	14%	9%
Elections ACT brochure (letterbox or newspaper insert)	7%	8%	7%	11%	18%
Through relatives/friends	8%	11%	10%	15%	6%
Elections ACT website	-	1%	3%	4%	12%
Voted where always vote	65%	57%	55%	57%	33%
Other (expected polling place to be at local school or hall)	-	15%	15%	8%	34%
Miscellaneous	2%	3%	6%	6%	2%

Note these results may sum to more than 100% as respondents could nominate more than one response.

The clear conclusion is that most people vote where they usually attend to vote, and/or have the expectation that they can vote at the local school or hall. However, the media and the Elections ACT information brochures also play an important role. It is not surprising to see a marked increase in usage of the Elections ACT website, and it is likely to increase further at future elections.

Table 37 – Usage and satisfaction with the Elections ACT website

Q: Did you access the elections ACT website to gain any information about the 2012 ACT election? If yes, how useful was this site in giving you information about the 2012 ACT election?

Response	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Yes	4%	7%	14%	31%
No	96%	93%	86%	69%
If Yes				
Very useful	26%	35%	32%	54%
Useful	37%	54%	57%	36%
Neither useful nor not useful	5%	3%	5%	3%
Not useful	16%	3%	3%	3%
Not useful at all	11%	-	3%	4%
Unsure/don't know	5%	5%	-	-

Respondents were also asked what information they were seeking. Key information sought included the address of polling places (18%) and explanation of electorates and numbers of members (5%).

These findings show a strong level of voter satisfaction when using the Elections Act website and for most users the information sought was found.

Table 38 – Awareness and use of the 2012 Elections ACT brochure

Q: Did you or your household receive a copy of this brochure from the ACT Electoral Commission which explained this ACT election and its procedures? (the brochure was shown to each respondent). If yes, did you read the brochure?

Response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Yes	69%	70%	81%	69%	71%
No	22%	22%	12%	23%	29%
Cannot remember	10%	7%	7%	9%	
If Yes					
Yes, read it thoroughly	19%	27%	21%	23%	20%
Yes, read parts needed to	19%	15%	17%	21%	33%
Yes, read & talk to others about it	3%	1%	1%	1%	-
Yes, glanced at it quickly	23%	27%	30%	23%	26%
No, did not look at it at all	34%	27%	30%	23%	15%
No, lost it or threw it away	2%	3%	7%	6%	3%
Don't know	-	-	-	1%	-

The above findings show that most voters (71%) in 2012 could recall receiving the household letterbox delivered brochure or The Canberra Times insert brochure from Elections ACT, and that the brochure was widely read. In 2012 8 in 10 (82%) of voters receiving the brochure claimed to have read the brochure.

A question was also asked to identify which sections of the brochure were useful. The findings suggest that while most sections were useful, the sections most useful were the explanation that numbers are required for valid vote, explanation of electorates and number of Members, and addresses of polling places.

Table 39 – Usage and usefulness of the 2012 Elections ACT social media network

Q: Elections ACT for this election introduced a social media network incorporating Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Did you access this social media to gain information about this election? Did it provide useful information? For future ACT elections would social media be useful to gain information from Elections ACT?

Response	2012
	Sample size 505
Yes	28%
No	72%
Found to be useful?	
Yes, useful information	35%
No, not useful	61%
Unsure	4%
Useful for future elections?	
Yes	37%
No	51%
Unsure	12%

These measures show that the newly introduced Elections ACT Social Media Network was accessed by almost 3 in 10 (28%) voters before the 2012 ACT Election. Only around a third (35%) of these voters believed that “useful information” was provided. While this may reflect the comparatively ephemeral nature of social media, it suggests that there is room for improvement at future elections.

Across all 505 voters interviewed over a third (37%) of voters believed a “social media network” should be used by Elections ACT in the 2016 ACT Election. This suggests that social media is likely to be a valuable information tool at future elections.

Table 40 – Awareness of exclusion of handing out how-to-vote cards within 100 metres of polling places

Q: Before you came to vote today were you aware that how-to-vote cards were no longer given out within 100 metres for an ACT election polling place?

Response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Yes	81%	74%	66%	64%	74%
No	17%	26%	33%	35%	25%
Unsure/don't know	1%	-	1%	1%	1%

These findings show that, while awareness of the 100 metre ban on canvassing has ebbed and flowed over time, generally at least 2/3 and up to 4/5 of electors are aware of the ban. Awareness improved by 10% in 2012 compared to 2008.

Table 41 – Problems caused by lack of easy accessibility of how-to-vote cards

Q: Did you find it a problem that how-to-vote cards were not available today? If yes, what problems did you have?

Response	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Yes	15%	9%	13%	6%
No	84%	89%	86%	90%
Unsure/don't know	1%	1%	1%	4%
If Yes (multiple responses possible)	Sample size 75	Sample size 45	Sample size 71	Sample size 30
Disagree with ban on how-to-vote cards	40%	49%	29%	50%
Did not know who to vote for	41%	62%	52%	30%
New resident to the ACT & did not know what to do	NA	4%	7%	10%
Other	37%	2%	15%	10%

Only 6% voters in 2012 found the ban on how to vote cards to be a problem. Of these, half disagreed with the ban. The number of people having a problem with the ban declined in 2012.

Table 42 – Awareness of Robson rotation method

Q: Were you aware of the Robson rotation method of printing ballot papers printed so that the candidate names are listed in a different order on different ballot papers?

Response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Never heard of Robson rotation system	46%	49%	41%	48%	51%
Have heard of Robson rotation but know nothing about it	13%	14%	10%	7%	7%
Know some things about Robson rotation	23%	26%	22%	20%	25%
Know all about Robson rotation	18%	12%	28%	25%	17%

About 49% of voters claimed some knowledge of the Robson rotation system in 2012. This awareness has not changed markedly over time.

Table 43 – Voter awareness of the name of their electorate

Q: Can you tell me the name of your electorate?

Response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Brindabella	27%	24%	27%	31%	22%
Ginninderra	26%	26%	24%	22%	26%
Molonglo	40%	39%	38%	35%	36%
Fraser	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Canberra	-	1%	-	-	1%
Other	-	-	1%	1%	1%
Don't know	6%	9%	8%	10%	13%

This shows that around 8 in 10 (84%) voters knew their electorate in 2012. While this has remained relatively consistent since 1998, the 2012 result is the lowest.

Table 44 – Voter awareness of how many Members will be elected in their electorate

Q: Can you tell me how many Members are to be elected in your electorate?

Response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
One	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Five	39%	31%	33%	36%	35%
Seven	28%	28%	28%	24%	23%
Other	3%	7%	5%	6%	5%
Don't know	28%	33%	33%	34%	36%
Other	-	-	1%	1%	1%
Don't know	6%	9%	8%	10%	13%

Only 6 in 10 voters (58%) knew how many Members were elected in their electorate. This has also remained relatively consistent since 1998. For voters aware of the number of Members of their electorate, analysis of the actual suburb location of each respondent and their understanding of the ACT electorate where they voted for Members identified the following:

Table 45 – Knowledge of number of Members 2008 election

Sample size = 545

Electorate	1 Member	5 Members	7 Members	Other numbers	Don't know
Brindabella	3%	47%	2%	5%	43%
Ginninderra	2%	62%	3%	3%	30%
Molonglo	1%	9%	50%	5%	35%

The conclusion regarding voter awareness is that knowledge of the name of a voter's electorate remains high (at 84%), but the knowledge of Robson rotation and the number of members elected in the voter's electorate remain relatively low at 49% and 58%, respectively. These findings suggest that for future elections, continued emphasis will need to be placed on these 2 issues.

Table 46 – Voter perception of adequacy of instructions on ballot papers

Q: How adequate were the instructions you were given by the ACT Electoral Commission on how to fill out your ballot paper for this election?

Response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Very adequate	36%	36%	38%	54%	61%
Adequate	51%	54%	55%	36%	32%
Neither adequate nor inadequate	8%	5%	2%	3%	3%
Inadequate	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%
Very inadequate	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Unsure/don't know	-	2%	1%	3%	2%

Since 1998 voter satisfaction with the instructions given to explain how to fill out the ballot paper has been strongly positive, being around 90% satisfaction throughout. The 2012 election saw the greatest number of voters considering the instructions to be very adequate, at 61%.

Table 47 – Voter satisfaction with service delivery provided by ACT polling places

Q: Having just voted which of these comments best describes the service provided by the people running this polling place, that is, those inside the school/hall etc?

Helpfulness response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Very helpful	51%	49%	48%	63%	71%
Helpful	43%	45%	46%	31%	26%
Neither helpful nor unhelpful	6%	5%	6%	6%	2%
Unhelpful	-	1%	-	-	1%
Very unhelpful	-	-	-	-	-

Efficiency response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Very efficient	55%	47%	55%	67%	73%
Efficient	38%	47%	42%	30%	24%
Neither efficient nor inefficient	6%	4%	3%	3%	1%
Inefficient	1%	2%	1%	-	1%
Very inefficient	-	-	-	-	1%
Very unhelpful	-	-	-	-	-

Friendliness response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 544%	Sample size 505
Very friendly	53%	48%	52%	67%	75%
Friendly	42%	48%	44%	30%	21%
Neither friendly nor rude	5%	4%	4%	3%	4%
Rude	-	-	-	-	-
Very rude	-	-	-	-	-

These findings show that 96% of voters in 2012 felt polling staff were helpful, efficient and friendly. While similar results occurred in 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2008, the 2012 election was notable for the proportion of voters rating polling staff as very helpful, efficient and friendly.

Table 48 – Voter inconvenience at the polling place

Q: When you voted today, what, if any, inconvenience did you experience? [multiple response possible]

Response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Queuing	1%	1%	2%	1%	5%
Entrance to polling place was blocked	-	-	-	1%	-
Staff inattentiveness	-	-	1%	1%	1%
Booth layout	-	-	1%	1%	-
Instructions on ballot paper not clear	1%	-	-	1%	-
Instructions for electronic voting not clear	NA	1%	-	1%	1%
Disabled access facilities	NA	-	-	1%	-
Polling place location changed	NA	NA	NA	NA	4%
Other	8%	7%	5%	6%	5%
No inconvenience	89%	91%	91%	90%	86%

Table 49 – Voter satisfaction with queuing

Q: looking at this card, which of these best describes how you found the queuing here today?

Response	1998	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Unacceptably long	-	-	-	1%	2%
Long but acceptable	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%
Not very long and acceptable	9%	11%	3%	6%	4%
Not a real problem	88%	85%	95%	92%	90%

The findings from these 2 questions show that most voters (over 9 in 10) in 2012 said they experienced no inconvenience with the voting process or with queuing. However, 2% experienced unacceptably long queuing time.

Table 50 – Voter awareness and usage of ACT election electronic voting procedures

Q: the 2012 election allowed electronic voting. Were you aware of the possibility to undertake electronic voting?

Response	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 500	Sample size 500	Sample size 545	Sample size 505
Yes	69%	64%	65%	62%
No	30%	34%	33%	36%
Unsure/don't know	1%	2%	2%	2%

Table 51 – Voter usage of electronic voting

Q: IF ELECTRONIC VOTING AVAILABLE AT THE POLLING PLACE. Did you vote today using electronic voting or the normal ballot paper method?

Response	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size unknown	Sample size 74	Sample size 74	Sample size 133
Yes, used electronic voting	59%	73%	81%	79%
No, used paper ballot method	41%	27%	19%	21%

Table 52 – Voter satisfaction with electronic voting

Q: If you used the electronic voting system, did you find it.....?

Response	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size unknown	Sample size 54	Sample size 60	Sample size 105
Easy to use	89%	86%	85%	91%
Fast and efficient	70%	88%	90%	88%
Had clear instructions	81%	83%	79%	87%
Easy in card swiping	NA	86%	66%	73%
Queuing length was satisfactory	NA	91%	97%	91%

These findings show over 6 in 10 voters (62%) were aware of electronic voting being available for the 2012 ACT Election, and strong growth in voters using electronic voting (increasing from 59% in 2001, 73% in 2004, rising to 81% in 2008 and 79% in 2012). Voters using electronic voting in 2012 advised it was easy to use, was fast and efficient, and the queuing length was satisfactory. The ease in card swiping improved, although its rating remains relatively low.

Table 53 – Reason why some voters at electronic voting polling places did not vote using the electronic method

Response	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size 20	Sample size 14	Sample size 28
Don't trust electronic voting	5%	14%	7%
Don't use or don't like computers	20%	21%	25%
Too many people queuing for electronic voting	5%	-	11%
Prefer paper ballot	65%	64%	57%
Other reasons	5%	-	-

Note these results are based on small sample sizes.

Table 54 – Voter interest in electronic voting at polling places where it was not available

Q: POLLING PLACES WHERE ELECTRONIC VOTING WAS NOT AVAILABLE. Electronic voting facilities were only available at certain places in the ACT. If this polling place had electronic voting do you think you would have used electronic voting or use the normal paper ballot method?

AND, IF THE PAPER BALLOT METHOD IS PREFERRED OR UNSURE/DON'T KNOW, why did, or why would you choose not to use electronic voting?

Response	2001	2004	2008	2012
	Sample size unknown	Sample size 426	Sample size 471	Sample size 372
Electronic voting	55%	50%	49%	59%
Paper ballot method	32%	38%	42%	31%
Unsure/don't know	13%	12%	9%	10%
If paper ballot preferred or unsure/dont know	Sample size unknown	Sample size 162	Sample size 198	Sample size 153
Don't trust this method	17%	31%	29%	16%
Don't use or like computers	25%	30%	27%	18%
Paper ballot is easier	NA	35%	44%	66%
Other	58%	5%	-	-

Around 6 out of 10 voters attending at places that did not have electronic voting expressed an interest in using it if it were available in 2012. Voters without a desire to use electronic voting mostly advised that they found voting using paper ballots easier.

Appendix 3 – Preference sequences on formal ballot papers

This Appendix shows details of preferences shown on formal ballot papers at the 2012 ACT election.

Table 55 – Sequence breaks in formal ballot papers

Highest preference counted	Missing next consecutive number				Repeated next consecutive number			
	Brin	Ginn	Molo	Total	Brin	Ginn	Molo	Total
1	22	20	20	62	39	47	48	134
2	34	25	35	94	20	44	42	106
3	17	11	24	52	11	26	70	107
4	10	8	45	63	15	22	31	68
5	30	34	35	99	7	10	21	38
6	3	4	11	18	14	29	34	77
7	11	10	34	55	10	31	17	58
8	5	6	8	19	6	13	20	39
9	1	2	12	15	2	8	7	17
10	4	7	20	31	4	4	24	32
11	1	6	12	19	5	4	7	16
12	2	3	5	10	1	3	7	11
13	2	5	13	20	1	3	7	11
14	5	3	7	15	2	4	5	11
15	4	4	6	14		6	1	7
16	1	1	3	5		3	2	5
17		1	1	2	2	2	7	11
18		1	3	4		3		3
19	1	6	10	17		2	2	4
20		1	2	3		6	3	9
21		6	4	10				0
22		3	2	5		1		1
23		3	3	6		3	3	6
24		4	1	5		1	3	4
25		1	1	2		4		4
26		1		1		1		1
27		4		4				0
Totals	153	180	317	650	139	280	361	780

Table 56 – Length of sequence – Brindabella

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Total
ACT LABOR																					
Joy BURCH	37	22	14	14	6649	266	224	631	74	193	50	28	60	1	33	11	13	11	10	690	9031
Karl MAFTOUM	17	6	7	6	2311	73	80	163	27	67	11	10	11	2	7	1	4	2	2	222	3029
Mick GENTLEMAN	21	7	15	13	3838	148	129	220	55	125	23	24	6	20	2	3	10	10	4	413	5105
Mike KINNEBURGH	12	5	5	4	1497	35	50	89	16	34	7	15	13	2	10	0	3	5	4	133	1939
Rebecca CODY	16	8	11	13	2646	113	108	195	28	72	24	15	16	4	13	3	3	4	8	261	3561
Group total	103	48	52	50	16941	635	591	1298	200	491	115	92	123	15	83	17	26	32	34	1719	22665
AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY																					
Burl DOBLE	21	37	12	12	1062	56	100	9	27	29	3	14	1	3	3	0	5	5	2	131	1532
Kieran JONES-ELLIS	13	44	8	12	656	38	61	9	15	14	2	7	1	1	1	0	2	3	0	69	956
Group total	34	81	20	24	1718	94	161	18	42	43	5	21	2	4	4	0	7	8	2	200	2488
BULLET TRAIN FOR CANBERRA																					
Adam HENSCHKE	18	18	6	9	713	44	89	17	15	36	4	9	3	2	9	1	0	1	2	169	1165
Mark ERWOOD	8	30	5	10	729	59	90	17	19	57	11	15	6	3	9	1	4	1	2	154	1230
Group total	26	48	11	19	1442	103	179	34	34	93	15	24	9	5	18	2	4	2	4	323	2395
CANBERRA LIBERALS																					
Andrew WALL	11	8	5	4	1982	69	95	24	21	35	4	30	9	1	3	2	3	4	1	166	2477
Brendan SMYTH	23	14	14	9	3149	120	127	39	38	56	7	33	15	3	5	3	5	3	7	284	3954
Nicole LAWDER	20	9	10	5	1689	51	67	20	22	28	7	22	8	1	5	1	3	1	2	115	2086
Val JEFFERY	22	7	3	8	1841	66	79	35	27	29	6	21	13	3	7	1	5	1	3	236	2413
Zed SESELJA	123	35	39	42	14953	395	655	216	182	266	29	159	48	11	21	8	17	19	14	1334	18566
Group total	199	75	71	68	23614	701	1023	334	290	414	53	265	93	19	41	15	33	28	27	2135	29496
THE ACT GREENS																					
Amanda BRESNAN	14	7	39	7	1987	126	83	403	42	156	53	18	32	4	23	7	4	4	5	501	3515
Ben MURPHY	4	4	18	2	408	30	6	61	4	35	1	5	6	1	4	0	0	0	2	91	682
Johnathan DAVIS	1	4	16	6	511	36	26	65	10	36	5	5	5	1	2	1	0	1	0	104	835
Group total	19	15	73	15	2906	192	115	529	56	227	59	28	43	6	29	8	4	5	7	696	5032
UNGROUPED																					
Calvin PEARCE	6	2	13	3	243	27	11	6	8	14	3	1	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	57	402
Mark GIBBONS	7	0	10	0	152	15	15	11	5	7	7	4	3	1	3	0	2	8	0	64	314
Michael LINDFIELD	8	2	7	2	479	53	23	20	10	16	9	12	2	1	3	1	1	10	2	109	770
Group total	21	4	30	5	874	95	49	37	23	37	19	17	9	2	7	2	3	19	3	230	1486
Total	402	269	257	181	47495	1820	2118	2250	645	1305	266	447	279	51	182	44	77	94	77	5303	63562
Percentage	0.63%	0.42%	0.40%	0.28%	74.72%	2.86%	3.33%	3.54%	1.01%	2.05%	0.42%	0.70%	0.44%	0.08%	0.29%	0.07%	0.12%	0.15%	0.12%	8.34%	
Progressive totals	63562	63160	62891	62634	62453	14958	13138	11020	8770	8125	6820	6554	6107	5828	5777	5595	5551	5474	5380	5303	
Progressive percentage	100.00%	99.37%	98.94%	98.54%	98.26%	23.53%	20.67%	17.34%	13.80%	12.78%	10.73%	10.31%	9.61%	9.17%	9.09%	8.80%	8.73%	8.61%	8.46%	8.34%	

Table 57 – Length of sequence –Ginninderra

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Total	
ACT LABOR																														
Chris Bourke	21	12	9	12	3514	172	181	398	91	161	19	34	40	15	17	5	8	7	3	2	5	2	7	5	4	4	3	297	5048	
Glen McCreia	21	5	3	11	3103	136	137	272	41	105	18	23	12	11	10	9	4	2	1	2	2	1	5	0	3	8	1	207	4153	
Jayson Hinder	14	4	5	8	2090	100	102	177	31	83	14	17	10	6	13	2	5	3	2	2	4	1	2	1	0	1	2	114	2813	
Patty Porter	41	29	18	25	6530	363	340	749	135	315	72	76	72	24	41	18	15	13	6	6	7	3	7	5	6	16	9	482	9423	
Vivette Berry	23	9	6	8	3598	163	154	339	57	148	28	30	33	13	11	10	7	11	3	5	8	4	5	3	2	7	5	277	4917	
Group total	120	59	41	64	18835	934	914	1935	355	812	151	180	167	69	92	44	39	36	15	17	26	11	26	14	15	36	20	1327	26354	
AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY																														
Chris Henry	67	92	17	29	3005	244	232	84	84	66	32	23	21	15	11	5	1	1	2	11	1	2	15	3	4	2	10	281	4360	
Dorothy Walford	7	9	1	3	293	18	37	15	6	4	5	3	4	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	19	434	
Group total	74	101	18	32	3298	262	269	99	90	70	37	26	25	16	16	5	2	1	2	11	2	2	16	3	4	2	11	300	4794	
BULLET TRAIN FOR CANBERRA																														
Chris Blundell	7	23	6	6	740	63	91	32	29	74	10	11	7	10	14	4	8	1	3	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	113	1262
Tony Halton	7	17	4	6	661	49	77	24	27	52	9	12	8	6	6	4	3	2	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	113	1096	
Group total	14	40	10	12	1401	112	168	56	56	126	19	23	15	16	20	8	11	3	4	4	3	1	2	1	0	3	4	236	2358	
CANBERRA LIBERALS																														
Alastair Coe	47	19	12	17	7065	951	593	135	173	124	57	32	39	20	38	11	4	3	9	19	2	1	31	5	6	4	12	588	10017	
Jacob Vamvakathu	10	7	7	8	2106	166	175	35	42	46	14	13	7	9	7	5	3	1	3	5	3	4	13	0	6	0	3	122	2820	
Matt Watts	10	5	4	11	2072	151	168	32	42	45	15	16	10	3	14	5	3	3	0	2	2	1	7	2	0	0	0	125	2750	
Merinda Nash	8	1	4	3	1175	79	86	22	17	14	6	4	5	3	1	2	1	2	0	4	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	78	1521	
Vicki Dunne	18	11	7	10	3853	337	294	74	83	82	45	24	18	10	7	5	6	3	0	9	2	0	26	0	3	1	3	236	5167	
Group total	93	43	34	49	16271	1684	1316	298	357	311	137	89	79	45	67	28	17	12	12	39	9	6	80	8	17	5	20	1149	22275	
LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY																														
Matt Thompson	15	27	4	5	558	30	76	23	16	18	5	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	31	819	
Muzaffar Jawadi	10	20	5	1	261	21	29	6	11	7	1	4	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	8	394		
Group total	25	47	9	6	819	51	105	29	27	25	6	7	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	39	1213	
MARION LE SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY																														
Korinna Lee	2	0	0	0	51	5	4	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	80	
Kate Reynolds	3	0	0	1	75	4	5	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	6	105
Majlinda Bitani	0	1	1	0	46	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5	61
Marion Le	5	2	2	2	328	20	17	9	15	17	4	8	15	7	9	1	8	3	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	48	532
Nikolai Nea Jrell	1	1	4	2	115	4	2	9	1	5	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	12	162
Group total	11	4	5	3	615	35	28	24	18	26	6	9	16	11	12	1	10	5	3	6	2	0	1	0	1	6	3	79	940	
THE ACT GREENS																														
Hannah Parris	9	3	12	1	679	32	31	124	20	48	11	15	13	5	12	2	5	1	4	1	1	0	2	1	4	2	0	99	1137	
James Higgins	9	3	19	6	636	38	35	112	19	53	6	12	12	7	4	2	2	4	1	2	0	4	3	1	0	4	0	83	1077	
Meredith Hunter	14	8	35	18	2240	153	137	639	109	239	47	41	72	34	62	20	15	9	12	7	10	1	3	2	5	11	7	512	4462	
Group total	32	14	66	25	3555	223	203	875	148	340	64	68	97	46	78	24	22	14	17	10	11	5	8	4	9	17	7	694	6676	
UNGROUPEED																														
Darren Churchill	0	0	0	2	72	13	3	4	2	5	0	6	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	28	144	
Emmanuel Ezekiel-Hf	8	3	5	1	352	47	26	14	17	16	10	6	3	3	4	4	3	5	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	56	589	
Glen Takenberg	0	2	0	2	111	18	9	6	12	9	8	6	8	3	2	4	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	3	66	279	
Norm Gilling	3	5	2	4	257	44	14	10	13	11	7	4	7	2	4	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	54	454	
Group total	11	10	7	9	792	122	52	34	44	41	25	22	19	8	12	15	6	7	3	1	2	2	3	0	5	5	204	1466		
Total																														
Percentage	0.58%	0.48%	0.29%	0.30%	68.99%	5.18%	4.62%	5.07%	1.66%	2.65%	0.67%	0.64%	0.64%	0.32%	0.45%	0.19%	0.16%	0.12%	0.09%	0.14%	0.09%	0.04%	0.21%	0.05%	0.08%	0.11%	0.11%	6.08%		
Progressive totals	66076	65696	65378	65188	64988	19402	15979	12024	9574	8479	6728	6283	5859	5439	5226	4937	4801	4692	4612	4555	4465	4408	4381	4245	4315	4162	4088	4018		
Progressive percentage	100.00%	99.42%	98.94%	98.60%	98.35%	29.36%	24.18%	19.56%	14.49%	12.83%	10.18%	9.51%	8.87%	8.23%	7.91%	7.46%	7.27%	7.10%	6.98%	6.89%	6.76%	6.67%	6.63%	6.42%	6.38%	6.30%	6.19%	6.08%		

Table 58 – Length of sequence – Molonglo

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Total
ACT LABOR																											
Andrew BARR	15	11	10	11	19	13	2812	116	100	59	242	20	69	15	17	10	10	11	3	10	1	4	2	4	11	285	3880
Angie DRAKES	9	0	2	4	5	8	1044	33	34	16	93	11	19	7	5	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	67	1404
David MATTHEWS	124	57	59	45	88	100	17489	680	375	1799	137	492	121	482	117	24	50	49	30	25	4	10	5	42	47	1381	23996
Katy GALLAGHER	8	3	7	2	10	6	1291	46	43	19	110	9	37	4	8	2	5	0	5	2	1	1	1	4	3	122	1749
Mark KILLASNOUGH	42	6	11	5	14	18	1944	70	55	42	129	12	42	17	10	7	7	7	4	3	0	3	2	6	7	170	2626
Megan FITZGERALD	18	4	7	6	14	3	1417	53	55	23	128	11	21	14	7	5	1	11	1	2	0	3	0	1	5	99	1509
Simon CORRELL	18	4	7	6	14	3	1417	53	55	23	128	11	21	14	7	5	1	11	1	2	0	3	0	1	5	99	1509
AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY																											
David CURRIERS	7	25	3	6	10	12	684	38	50	13	14	4	10	1	10	0	4	0	2	2	1	2	0	6	4	67	975
Mark CURRAN	8	27	7	9	7	9	626	35	45	24	18	6	10	0	10	2	2	2	3	2	0	1	0	1	3	65	922
Group total	15	52	10	15	17	21	1310	73	95	37	32	10	20	1	20	2	6	2	5	4	1	3	0	7	7	132	1897
BULLET TRAIN FOR CANBERRA																											
Shelley DICKERSON	14	32	8	9	11	15	1156	86	91	36	35	14	98	7	24	3	10	2	5	8	1	2	3	3	3	217	1893
Tim BOHM	13	30	6	8	16	21	1343	89	137	50	37	23	76	10	17	6	11	7	5	7	1	2	4	5	12	282	2218
Group total	27	62	14	17	27	36	2499	175	228	86	72	37	174	17	41	9	21	9	10	15	2	4	7	8	15	499	4111
CANBERRA LIBERALS																											
Elizabeth LEE	45	14	10	7	23	20	3582	92	157	51	54	5	27	18	28	6	6	9	6	6	5	4	0	6	7	271	4459
Gulla JONES	38	10	15	6	24	19	4699	134	190	59	84	15	34	15	31	6	7	6	3	7	1	7	2	11	10	321	5754
James MILLIGAN	23	7	7	8	9	14	2464	53	123	32	44	11	13	10	21	2	1	1	3	0	0	2	0	3	4	129	2984
Jeremy HANSON	41	15	13	21	27	27	8349	169	414	83	153	36	57	47	67	11	5	15	13	9	1	6	6	10	12	640	10235
Murray GORDON	8	4	3	3	12	7	1451	23	55	15	16	3	14	7	13	2	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	106	1750	
Steve DOSZPOT	22	10	12	7	20	22	4292	88	182	50	93	18	33	22	34	6	2	9	5	4	1	6	0	3	6	298	5245
Tom SEFTON	20	5	13	8	9	11	3144	63	137	29	52	13	29	18	17	7	2	1	4	11	5	2	1	5	7	221	3834
Group total	197	65	75	52	119	120	27981	622	1258	319	496	101	207	137	211	40	23	42	35	38	15	28	9	38	48	1986	34261
LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY																											
Jan GARDNER	15	27	5	7	5	3	402	33	39	11	8	3	5	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	37	610
Treha JHA	13	20	8	8	9	8	300	22	38	17	7	4	6	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	50	517
Group total	28	47	13	15	14	11	702	55	77	28	15	7	11	4	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	87	1127
THE ACT GREENS																											
Adriana SIDDE	15	4	3	27	9	13	844	72	29	21	110	13	59	7	12	1	6	0	1	5	1	1	1	2	2	137	1395
Alan KERLIN	6	5	6	28	5	7	703	45	11	26	90	13	51	3	9	4	4	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	3	145	1173
Caroline LE COUTEUR	17	8	16	28	18	25	2509	161	107	115	519	47	245	34	60	11	16	16	6	11	4	10	2	9	19	518	4531
Shane BATTENBURY	16	6	12	48	21	17	2754	217	81	69	592	67	268	27	50	12	25	30	7	12	2	3	3	8	19	582	4966
Group total	54	23	37	131	53	62	6810	495	228	252	1311	140	623	71	131	28	51	49	17	30	8	14	3	19	43	1382	12065
UNGROUPED																											
Philip POCOCK	9	11	6	2	3	6	418	39	9	20	10	8	7	2	7	1	0	2	2	4	1	0	0	0	2	82	651
Stuart BIGGS	9	5	3	3	2	4	212	23	9	8	3	20	4	9	4	1	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	3	121	450
Group total	18	16	9	5	5	10	630	62	18	28	13	28	11	11	11	2	1	2	5	5	1	1	1	0	5	203	1101
Total	565	352	259	314	386	418	66951	2511	2880	1310	4526	534	1754	427	585	130	183	185	117	138	34	77	31	132	197	6538	91534
Percentage	0.62%	0.38%	0.28%	0.34%	0.42%	0.46%	73.14%	2.74%	3.15%	1.43%	4.94%	0.58%	1.92%	0.47%	0.64%	0.14%	0.20%	0.20%	0.13%	0.15%	0.04%	0.08%	0.03%	0.14%	0.22%	7.14%	
Progressive totals	91534	90969	90617	90358	90044	89658	89240	22289	19778	16898	15588	11062	10528	8774	8347	7762	7632	7449	7264	7147	7009	6975	6898	6867	6735	6538	
Progressive percentage	100.00%	99.38%	99.00%	98.72%	98.37%	97.95%	97.49%	24.35%	21.61%	18.46%	17.03%	12.09%	11.50%	9.59%	9.12%	8.48%	8.34%	8.14%	7.94%	7.81%	7.66%	7.62%	7.54%	7.50%	7.36%	7.14%	

