

ABOUT THE AEC

150

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS REGULAR

1 020 | 1902

YEAR ESTABLISHED
as part of Department of Ho

1984

YEAR ESTABLISHED as a statutory authority

In this section: What is the AEC?8 Values and principles8 Outcome and programs8 Organisational structure and leadership9 Guiding legislation13

We continue to strengthen our focus on electoral integrity, and on understanding and responding to the expectations of the public and the Parliament.

al structure and leadership

What is the AEC?

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is an independent statutory authority established by the Australian Government to:

Maintain an impartial and independent electoral system for eligible voters through active electoral roll management, efficient delivery of polling services, and targeted education and public awareness programs.

We do this by:

- conducting successful electoral events, including federal elections, by-elections and referendums
- 2. ensuring confidence in the electoral roll
- **3.** administering political party registrations and financial disclosure
- 4. undertaking public awareness activities.

Associated activities include:

- conducting ballots for industrial and commercial organisations
- undertaking electoral analysis
- supporting electoral redistributions
- administering election funding to eligible political parties
- assisting overseas electoral management bodies.

Values and principles

The AEC's values of electoral integrity through quality, agility and professionalism inform the agency's strategic planning and day-to-day operations.

The AEC is also guided by the Australian Public Service ICARE values of **impartiality**, **committed to service**, **accountable**, **respectful** and **ethical**.

We continue to strengthen our focus on electoral integrity, and on understanding and responding to the expectations of the public and the Parliament.

Outcome and programs

The AEC has one outcome: 'Maintain an impartial and independent electoral system for eligible voters through active electoral roll management, efficient delivery of polling services and targeted education and public awareness programs'.

SPOTLIGHT

Our history

- We were originally established as a branch of the Department of Home Affairs in 1902.
- Between 1973 and 1984 we were known as the Australian Electoral Office.
- On 21 February 1984, following major amendments to the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, the Australian Electoral Commission was established as an independent statutory authority.

This outcome is delivered via one program – Deliver Electoral Events. This program has six areas of performance for 2015–16, reported separately in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2016–17 for the AEC (Budget-Related Paper No. 1.8, available at www.finance.gov.au/publications/portfolio-budget-statements/16-17):

- Federal elections, by-elections and referendums
- Electoral roll management
- Support services for electoral redistributions
- Party registrations and financial disclosure
- Industrial and commercial elections
- Public awareness.

Organisational structure and leadership

Structure

National office

At 30 June 2016, the National Office, in Canberra, consisted of 12 key functional areas:

- Legal and Procurement Branch
- Education and Communications Branch
- Information Technology Branch
- Finance and Business Services Branch
- Disclosure, Assurance and Engagement Branch
- Senate Reform Program
- Election Reform Program Branch
- Election Planning, Systems and Services Branch
- People Services Branch
- Industrial and Commercial Elections Program
- Roll Management Branch
- ETP (Employ, Train, Pay) Preparation Project.

State/territory offices

The AEC's state offices are located in each state capital city of Australia. The Northern Territory office is in Darwin. Divisional offices in the Australian Capital Territory office are managed by the New South Wales State Manager except during election periods, when an Australian Electoral Officer for the Australian Capital Territory is appointed.

Divisional offices and electoral divisions

Divisional offices of the AEC are responsible for electoral administration within each of the 150 electoral divisions. Each division is represented by a member of the House of Representatives. Divisional offices administer the conduct of electoral events, manage the electoral roll and carry out public awareness activities. Some divisional offices stand alone, while others are co-located in the same site. Australia's electoral divisions as at 30 June 2016 are shown in Figure 1.

Leadership

Electoral Commissioner

The Electoral Commissioner, Mr Tom Rogers, as the chief executive officer of the AEC, both leads and is responsible for day-to-day management of the organisation. He is also the accountable authority for the three-person Australian Electoral Commission under finance law.

The Commission

The Australian Electoral Commission (the Commission) is appointed by the Governor-General and comprises the Chairperson, who must be an active or retired judge of the Federal Court of Australia, the Electoral Commissioner and a non-judicial member.

8



Senior Executive Group 2015-16. Back row left to right: Ian Gordon, Anna Robinson, Jeff Pope, Paul Hawes, Thomas Ryan, Doug Orr, David Lang, Paul Pirani, Gabrielle Paten, Mick Sherry, David Molnar, Stephen Blackburn, Andrew Gately. Front row left to right: Marie Nelson, Lynn White, Gina Dario, Pablo Carpay, Kath Toohey, Tom Rogers, Kevin Kitson, Tim Courtney, Bernadette O'Meara, Emma Mason.

The functions of the Commission are set out in sections 7 and 7A of the Electoral Act. The Commission has various powers under the Act that can only be exercised by the Commission, particularly in relation to electoral redistributions, and political party funding and disclosure. Otherwise the Commission acts through the Electoral Commissioner, who is the CEO of the Commission (section 18).

As at 30 June 2016, the members of the Commission were:

- Chairperson: Hon. Dennis Cowdroy, OAM QC
- Electoral Commissioner: Tom Rogers
- Non-judicial member: David Kalisch.

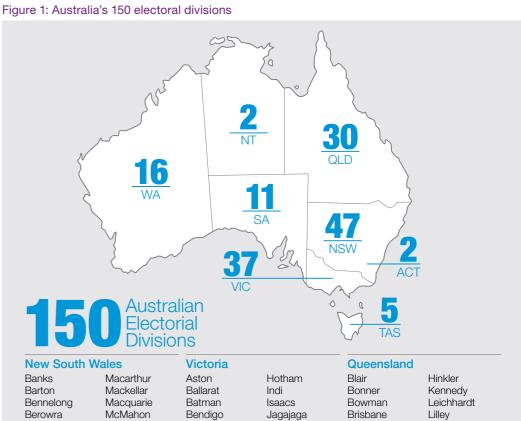
Executive management

The AEC's organisational structure and leadership are shown in Figure 2. Assisting the Electoral Commissioner are the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, three First Assistant Commissioners, seven Assistant Commissioners, the Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Legal Officer.

They are supported by the State Managers, who also hold statutory appointments as Australian Electoral Officer for their respective state or territory (with the exception of the Australian Capital Territory, see 'State/territory offices' section above).

The First Assistant Commissioners are each responsible for a Division. These are:

- Network Operations Division, consisting of the Australian Electoral Officer/ State Manager network, Education and Communications Branch, and the Industrial and Commercial Elections Program
- Capability Division, consisting of four key functional branches
- Election Operations and Reform Division, consisting of four key functional areas (in addition, the First Assistant Commissioner. Election Operations and Reform Division, performs the role of National Election Manager [NEM]).



Mitchell Blaxland Bradfield Newcastle Calare New England Chifley North Sydney Cook Page Parkes Cowper Cunningham Parramatta Dobell Paterson Eden-Monaro Reid Farrer Richmond Fowler Riverina Robertson Gilmore Gravndler Shortland Greenway Svdnev Hughes Warringah Hume Watson Wentworth Hunter Kingsford Smith Werriwa Lindsav Whitlam Lvne

Tasmania

Bass Franklin Braddon Lyons Denison

Bruce Kooyong Calwell Lalor La Trobe Casev Chisholm McEwen Corangamite McMillan Corio Mallee Maribyrnona Deakin Dunkley Melbourne Flinders Melbourne Ports Griffith Gellibrand Menzies Gippsland Murray Goldstein Scullin Gorton Wannon Higgins Wills Holt

Western Australia

Brand Hasluck Moore Burt Canning O'Connor Cowan Pearce Curtin Perth Durack Stirlina Forrest Swan Fremantle Tangney

Capricornia Longman Maranoa Dawson McPherson Dickson Fadden Moncrieff Fairfax Moreton Fisher Oxley Flynn Petrie Rankin Forde Rvan Wide Bav Groom Herbert Wright

South Australia

Adelaide Makin Barker Mavo Boothby Port Adelaide Grey Sturt Hindmarsh Wakefield Kingston

Northern Territory

Lingiari Solomon **Australian Capital Territory**

Canberra Fenner

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Figure 2: Organisation chart and leadership structure as at 30 June 2016

Deputy Electoral Commissioner Kathryn Toohey

Legal and Procurement Branch Paul Pirani	First Assistant Comm Network Operations Kevin Kitson	First Assistant Commissioner Network Operations Kevin Kitson	ner	A/g First Assis Capability Tim Courtney	A/g First Assistant Commissioner Capability Tim Courtney	nissioner		First Assistant Election Oper Pablo Carpay	First Assistant Commissioner Election Operations and Reform, National Elec Pablo Carpay	oner Reform, Natid	onal Elec
Legal Services Michael Ross Director Commercial Law	Australian Electoral Officer/State	Education and Communications Branch Jonathan		Information Technology Branch David Lang	70	Disclosure, Assurance and Engagement Branch	Senate Reform Lynn White A/g Assistant Commissioner	Election Reform Programme Branch	Election Planning, Systems and Services	People Services Branch Emma Mason	Roll Manageme Branch Andrew Ga
and Procurement Rachel Allen A/g Director	Doug Orr New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory	Assistant Commissioner	National Program Manager	A/g Assistant Commissioner ICT Infrastructure	Stephen Blackburn Chief Finance Officer	Gina Dario A/g Assistant Commissioner	Gabrielle Paten Assistant Commissioner	Anna Robinson A/g Assistant Commissioner	Signer	Assistant Commissioner Organisational	Assistant Commissioner Electoral
	Jeff Pope Victoria Deputy NBM	Media and External Communication Phil Diak Director	National Director	Management Jason Wright Director	Financial Management Erin Clark Director	Assurance Amy Vincent A/g Director	Sue Sayer Director	Election Policy and Procedures Alexandra Borthwick Director	Election Systems and Delivery Michael Lynch A/g Director	Capability Tracey McMenamin Director	Integrity Unit Kellie Browning Director
	Thomas Ryan Queensland Marie Neilson Western Australia	Communication Services Bernadette O'Meara Director		Enterprise and IT Governance Stuart Oreo Director	Property, Workplace Services and Security Brett Milic	Parliamentary and Strategic Engagement Matthew Gardiner A/g Director	Natasha Scandrett A/g Director	Reform Team Steve Kennedy Director	Election Planning and Reporting Lynn Holder A/g Director	Employee Relations and Services Janet Fuller Director	Enrolment Capability and Support Rod Whitaker Director
	Paul Hawes A/g South Australia David Molnar	Education and Community Engagement Alison Beasley		(Roll Products) Jason Wright Director	Performance Planning and Reporting	Funding and Disclosure Delyse Paliaga A/g Senior Director		Branch Coordination Fiona Codd Director			National Enroli Services Sean Ferrari Director
	A/g Tasmania Mick Sherry Northern Territory	Indigenous Electoral Participation Program Bob Exhardt		Il Solutions, (Elections, Funding and Communication) Ryan Nott Director	Nicote robel tsol 1	Disclosure and Party Registration Brad Edgman Director					Redistribution Secretariat Nicole Taylor Assistant Direc
		Director International Services				Compliance Joanne Reid Director					

Guiding legislation

The Electoral Act establishes the roles and responsibilities of the AEC as an independent statutory authority. Table 1 sets out the legislative instruments that guide our functions.

Table 1: Legislative framework

Legislative instrument	AEC function
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005	Conduct Torres Strait Regional Authority elections.
Commonwealth Electoral	Conduct federal elections.
Act 1918	Maintain and update the Commonwealth electoral roll.
	Promote public awareness of electoral and parliamentary matters through information and education programs.
	Provide international electoral assistance in cases approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.
	Conduct and promote research into electoral matters and other matters that relate to AEC functions.
	Register political parties.
	Pay public funding to election candidates and parties and publish financial disclosure returns of political parties and others.
	Provide support to the independent redistribution process that determines representation entitlements.
	Reporting of spending on advertising and market research generally (not restricted to electoral matters).
Electoral and Referendum Regulations 1940	Conduct federal elections and referendums and provide voter information.
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	Manage activities in accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
Fair Work Act 2009	Conduct protected action ballots.
Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009	Conduct industrial elections.
Freedom of Information Act 1982	Hold and release documents.
Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013	Manage public money and property.
Public Service Act 1999	Ensure the effective and fair employment, management and leadership of AEC employees.
Privacy Act 1988	Store, use and disclose personal information.
Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984	Conduct federal referendums.
Representation Act 1983	Set numbers for Senate elections.
Work Health and Safety Act 2011	Implement and report on matters concerning the health, safety and welfare of AEC workers.

12