

Victorian Electoral Commission
**Report on the Lyndhurst District
by-election held on 27 April 2013**

February 2014



VIEC

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honourable Bruce Atkinson MLC
President of the Legislative Council

The Honourable Ken Smith MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I am pleased to submit to you, for presentation to Parliament, this report on the conduct of the Lyndhurst District by-election held on 27 April 2013.

The report is presented in accordance with section 8(2)(b) of the *Electoral Act 2002*.



Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner
February 2014

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A by-election for the electorate of Lyndhurst District was triggered by the resignation, of the sitting member, the Honourable Tim Holding, MP on 18 February 2013.

The Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC's) comprehensive election planning, processes and systems, and the strong capabilities of VEC staff along with solid partnerships with efficient and reliable suppliers and contractors were key components of the successful conduct of the by-election.

A communication campaign included a householder letter and a range of newspaper advertisements to ensure that electors were aware of details of the by-election, their voting options and the result. Information was available in a range of languages and through an interpreter telephone service.

Eight candidates nominated for the by-election. Three independent candidates nominated and the Australian Labor Party, the Democratic Labor Party, the Australian Greens, Family First and the Australian Sex Party each endorsed a candidate. Mr Martin Pakula, the candidate for the Australian Labor Party – Victorian Branch, who polled 40.96% of the first preference votes, was elected during a distribution of preferences at the sixth exclusion.

The turnout rate of 80.07% for the by-election was lower than the turnout rate of 92.47% for Lyndhurst District at the 2010 State election. The turnout rate for the Lyndhurst by-election was similar to the average turnout of 80.22% for the five most recent State by-elections (excluding Lyndhurst).

The informality rate of 9.45%, with eight candidates, was an increase on the informality rate of 7.06% for the Lyndhurst District with seven candidates at the 2010 State election. The informality rate was also higher than the average informality rate of 8.32% for the five most recent State by-elections (excluding Lyndhurst). An analysis of the informal votes has been conducted and is included in Appendix E.

I take this opportunity to thank all VEC staff, contractors and suppliers, and particularly Election Manager, Mr Bill Lang and Assistant Election Managers, Ms Therese Camm and Ms Sally West, for their contributions to the very successful conduct of the Lyndhurst District by-election.



Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

1. SNAPSHOT

Results at a glance

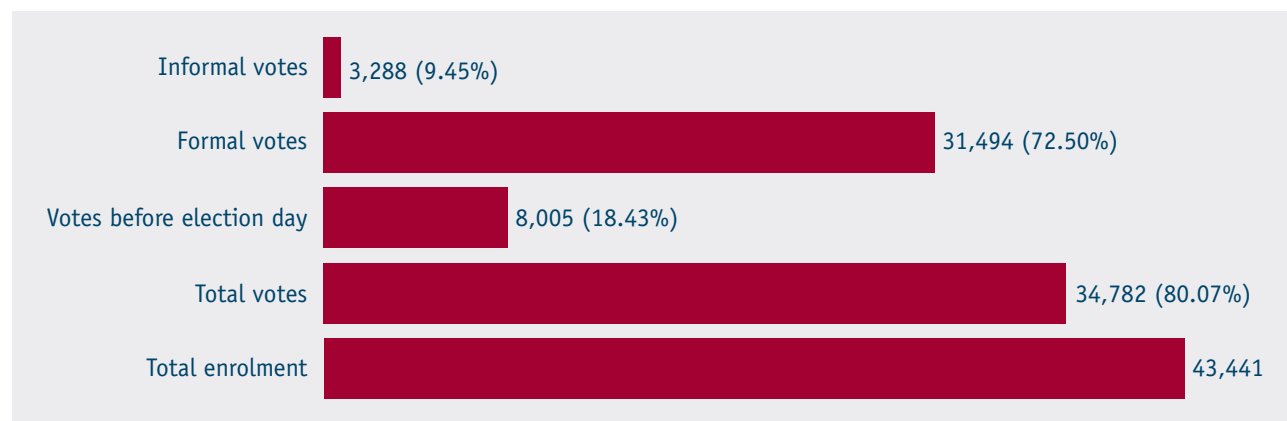
First preference votes (% of first preference votes)

Candidate	Party	1st preference votes	% of 1st preference votes
Leahy, Martin	Sex Party	2635	8.37%
Springle, Nina	Greens	2960	9.40%
Vo, Hung		3070	9.75%
Singh, Bobby		639	2.03%
Nowland, Stephen	Family First	4454	14.14%
Linaker, David		1370	4.35%
Pakula, Martin	ALP	12899	40.96%
Gonsalvez, Geraldine	DLP	3467	11.01%

Results after distribution of preferences

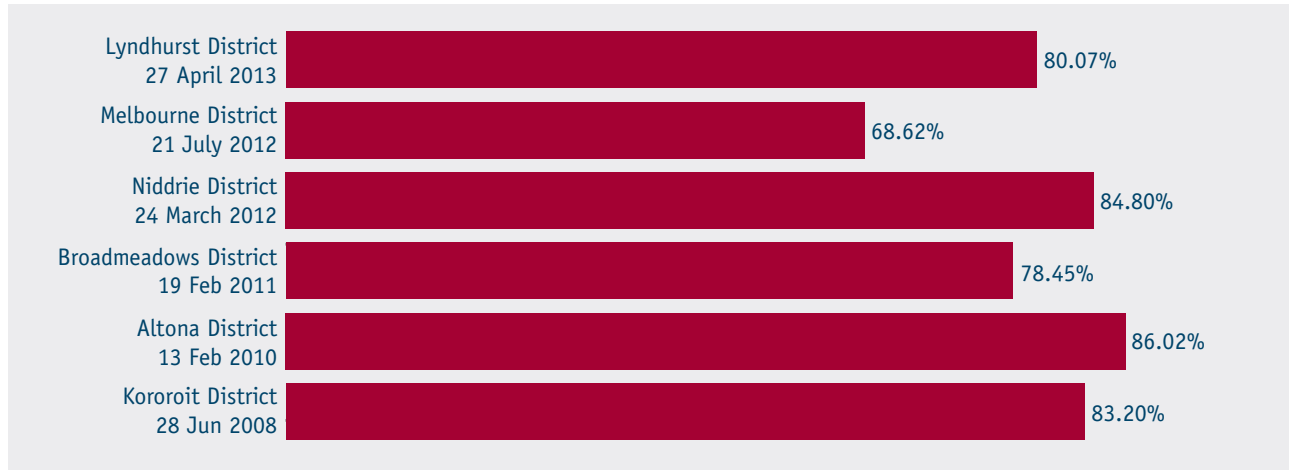
Candidate	Party	Votes after distribution	% Votes
Nowland, Stephen	Family First	13533	42.97%
Pakula, Martin	ALP	17961	57.03%

Participation snapshot, Lyndhurst District by-election 2013

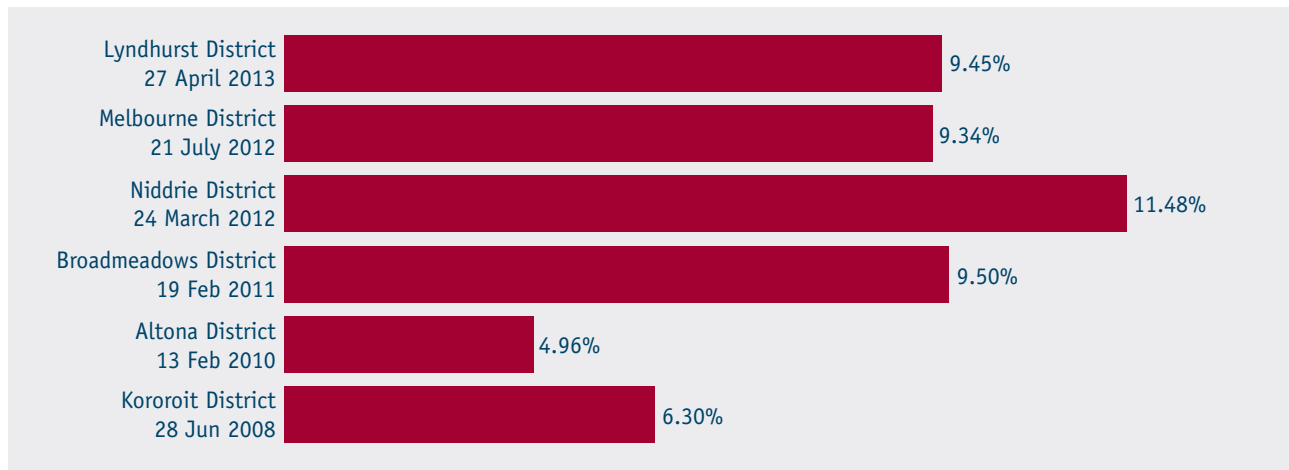


Participation trends

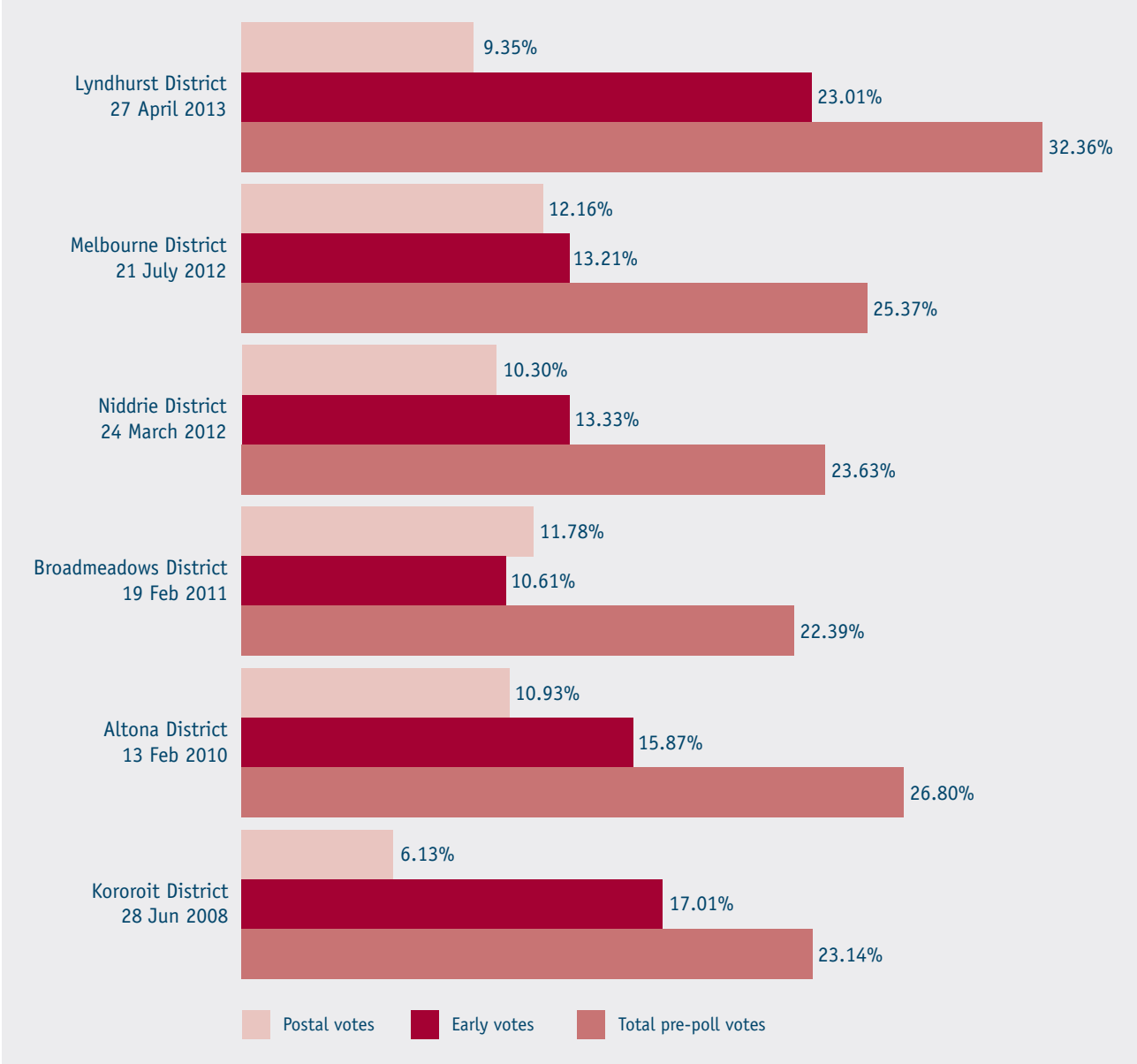
Voter turnout at Victorian State by-elections 2008 – 13 (% total enrolment)



Informal votes at Victorian State by-elections 2008 – 13 (% total votes)



Votes cast before election day at Victorian State by-elections 2008 – 13 (% of total votes)



2. BACKGROUND

The writ

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly issued a writ for the by-election for Lyndhurst District on 5 March 2013. The writ set out the timetable for the by-election.

Election timetable

Issue of the writ	Tuesday, 5 March 2013
Nominations opened	Wednesday, 6 March 2013
Close of roll	8.00 pm, Tuesday 12 March 2013
Close of nominations (party candidates)	12 noon, Wednesday 27 March 2013
Close of nominations (independent candidates)	12 noon, Thursday 28 March 2013
Early voting commenced	4.00 pm, Thursday 28 March 2013
Registration of how-to-vote cards opened	Tuesday 2 April 2013
Registration of how-to-vote cards closed	12 noon, Thursday 18 April 2013
Postal vote applications closed	6.00 pm, Wednesday 24 April 2013
Early voting closed	6.00 pm, Friday 26 April 2013
Election day voting	8.00 am – 6.00 pm Saturday 27 April 2013
Results	From 6.00 pm, Saturday 27 April 2013
Return of the writ	On or before Friday 17 May 2013 (returned 6 May 2013)

Preliminary arrangements with other agencies

Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

The VEC made preliminary arrangements with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to ensure that any matters relating to how-to-vote cards could be heard within a 24 hour period. The VEC thanks the VCAT for its support.

Victorian Government Solicitor's Office

The VEC made preliminary arrangements with the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office (VGSO) to have a senior legal advisor on standby 24 hours a day during the election period, to ensure that any matters were dealt with in a timely fashion. The VEC thanks the VGSO for its support.

Victoria Police

The VEC contacted the Chief Commissioner of Police to request a discreet police presence at all voting centres during the hours of voting on election day. The VEC provided a full list of all voting venues to Victoria Police to assist with this request. The VEC formally records its appreciation for the support received from the Chief Commissioner and Victoria Police.

Supreme Court

The VEC made preliminary arrangements with the Supreme Court, through the Department of Justice, to ensure that a Practice Court and presiding judge would be available to hear any applications for injunctions if the need arose on election day. The VEC thanks the Department and the Supreme Court for their support.

The former member

The Honourable Tim Holding, MP, represented the District of Lyndhurst from 2002 to 2013.

Mr Holding was elected MLA for the Springvale electorate in 1999 and in 2002 was elected for the Lyndhurst District when the Springvale electorate was abolished in the 2001 redivision.

Mr Holding was Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Industry since December 2010. Mr Holding has held the offices of Minister for Manufacturing and Export, Minister for Financial Services Industry from 2002 – 05; Minister for Police & Emergency Services, Minister for Corrections from January 2005 – December 2006; Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission from December 2006 – December 2010; Minister for Tourism from December 2006 – August 2007; Minister for Tourism and Major Events from August 2007 – December 2010; Minister for Information and Communication Technology from December 2006 – August 2007 and Minister for Water from August 2007 – December 2010.

The electorate

Lyndhurst District is a metropolitan electorate located approximately 22 kilometres south-east of Melbourne. It covers an area of approximately 98 square kilometres. It includes the suburbs or localities of Bangholme and Lyndhurst and parts of Dandenong South, Hampton Park, Keysborough, Lynbrook, Noble Park and Springvale.

The District encompasses market gardens in the south and rapid residential development around Hampton Park in the east.

Historical pattern of the District

2002 – present Australian Labor Party.

Past results for Lyndhurst District

2010 State election Results

Elected member	Holding, Tim
Total Enrolment	41,578
Formal Votes	35,733
Informal Votes	2,715 (7.06% of total votes)
Total Votes	38,448 (92.47% of total enrolment)

Candidate	1st preference votes
Wheatley, Heather (Family First)	1,744 (4.88%)
Springle, Nina Meredith (Greens)	2,191 (6.13%)
Vo, Hung	1,277 (3.57%)
Ford, Gordon W.	311 (0.87%)
Holland, Tony (Liberal)	9,946 (27.83%)
Wang, Yien Machar (DLP)	444 (1.24%)
Holding, Tim (ALP)	19,820 (55.47%)

2006 State election results

Elected member	Holding, Tim
Total Enrolment	36,605
Formal Votes	31,677
Informal Votes	2,249 (6.63% of total votes)
Total Votes	33,926 (92.68% of total enrolment)

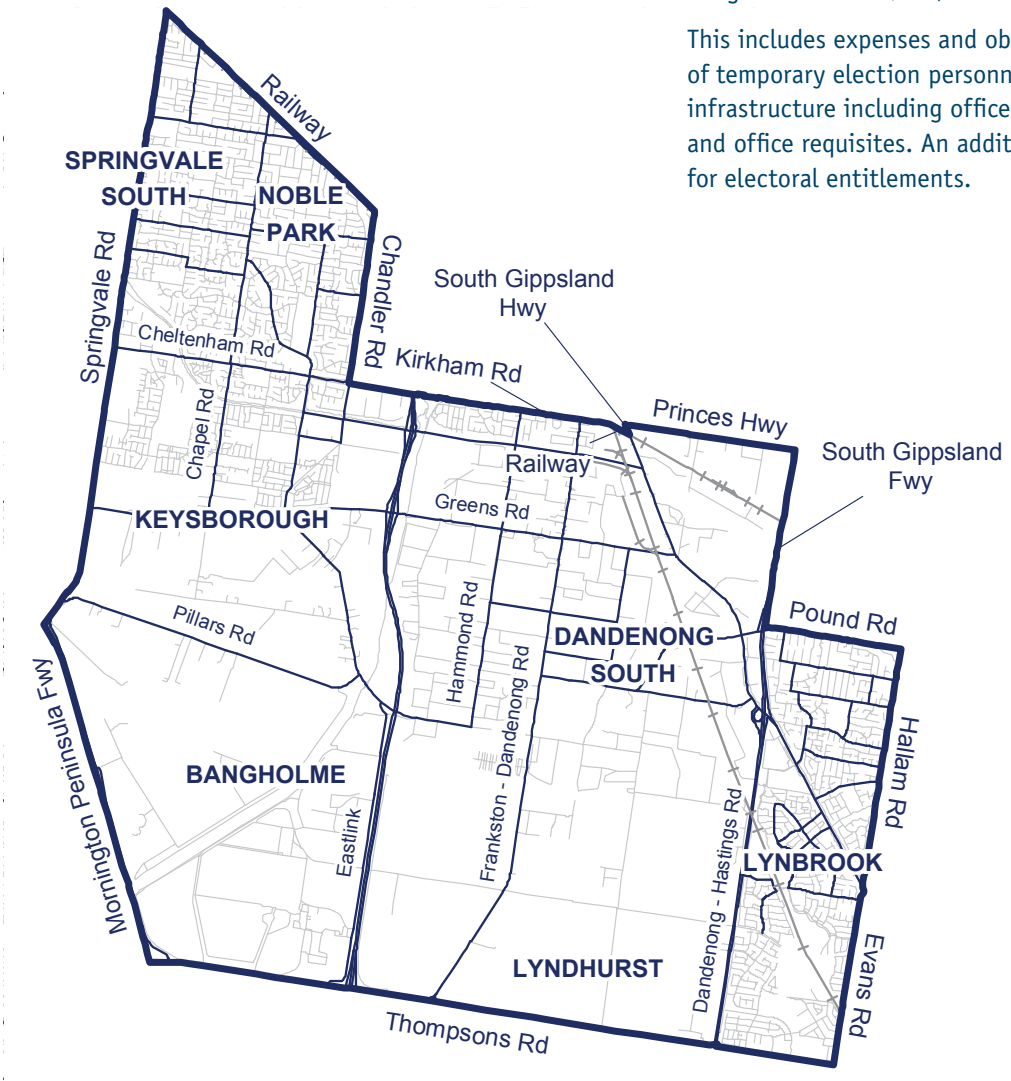
Candidate	1st preference votes
Holding, Tim (ALP)	20,681 (65.29%)
Anderton, Gary (Liberal)	7,189 (22.69%)
Ford, Gordon W.	375 (1.18%)
Walsh, Jenny (Family First)	2,035 (6.42%)
Henley, Andrew (Greens)	1,397 (4.41%)

3. BUDGET

Map of the District

The VEC estimated a marginal cost of \$400,000 for the conduct of the Lyndhurst District by-election. The final marginal cost was \$371,179.

This includes expenses and obligations related to salaries of temporary election personnel, advertising, associated infrastructure including office accommodation, transport and office requisites. An additional \$50,000 was allowed for electoral entitlements.



4. ELECTION PERSONNEL

Election Manager

Mr Bill Lang was appointed the Election Manager for Lyndhurst District. The Election Manager was responsible for:

- Staffing the election office
- Receiving candidate nominations
- Conducting the draw for ballot paper positions
- Dealing with electoral enquiries
- Appointing voting centre managers and election officials
- Training voting centre managers
- Receipt of how-to-vote cards for registration by the VEC
- Supervising voting, and receiving and recording results
- Declaring the election

The Election Manager was assisted by VEC staff and other election officials.

Support for Election Manager

Ms Therese Camm and Ms Sally West were appointed as Assistant Election Managers.

The VEC supported the Election Manager through the provision of:

- Advice on election management
- Office equipment and furniture, computers, telephones and fax machines, ballot boxes, voting screens and voting centre furniture
- Help desk support and assistance for the VEC's election management system and with other technical issues
- Electoral materials, including voting centre and office forms and manuals
- A voter information campaign for the by-election
- Assistance with public and media relations
- Translated voting messages and an interpreter service
- Netbooks for use in voting centres

Recruitment and training

A total of 185 staff (including the Election Manager and two Assistant Election Managers) were appointed for the by-election. Of these, 152 were appointed as election officials at voting centres on election day. A further 30 election casuals were appointed by the Election Manager to assist with early voting at the early voting centres, mobile voting, and administrative duties including counts conducted at the election office.

A three hour training session was conducted for the voting centre managers, assistant voting centre managers, early voting centre managers and election liaison officers. The Election Manager and Assistant Election Managers had previous recent election experience and did not require additional training.

Mobile early voting centre team leaders received training prior to commencing work. One VEC staff member provided dedicated help desk support to the Election Manager and Assistant Election Managers during the election period.

5. SERVICES TO ELECTORS

Enrolment

The day after the issue of the writ for Lyndhurst District, the VEC sent written notification of the by-election to every household in the electorate. The letter contained information about the by-election, encouraged those now eligible to enrol to do so and reminded those who had recently moved to update their enrolment details. The timing of the mailout provided four working days for electors to ensure that they were correctly enrolled and eligible to vote in the by-election.

Enrolment advertisements were placed in both major daily papers (see Appendix D for sample communication products). Enrolment forms could be downloaded from the VEC website (vec.vic.gov.au), and printed copies were available from Australia Post offices, Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) divisional offices or by contacting the VEC by-election office.

The VEC election office and VEC head office remained open until 8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March. The VEC also made arrangements with the AEC for the Cranbourne, Oakleigh and Cheltenham offices to remain open until 8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March.

Between the issue of the writ and the close of rolls, 1,070 electors enrolled or updated their enrolment details. At the close of roll, there were 43,441 electors enrolled, 1,863 more than at the close of roll for the 2010 State election.

Services for electors from non-English speaking backgrounds

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census, 21.09% of the usually resident population of Lyndhurst District were reported as speaking English not well or not at all. English was stated as the only language spoken at home by 40.3% of people usually resident in Lyndhurst District.

According to the 2011 Census, two or more languages were spoken in 56.9% of households within Lyndhurst District, which is more than double the rate for Victoria as a whole. Other languages spoken at home included Vietnamese 11.2%, Khmer 6.2%, Cantonese 3.4%, Mandarin 2.3% and Sinhalese 2.2%.

Advertising in print media included multi-lingual telephone enquiry service numbers that operate all year round. These included the five most common languages spoken in Lyndhurst District. These numbers were also incorporated on the enrolment and voting letters sent to householders/electors in Lyndhurst.

Translated introductory information on the by-election was recorded on each of the language lines advertised. Callers were able to hold the line for interpreter assistance via a three-way phone call between the staff at the Victorian Interpreting and Translating Service, the VEC and the caller.

Electors could also access voting instructions translated into 19 languages (plus English) placed inside each voting screen. Across all 15 election day voting centres, 53 election staff spoke a language other than English and were on hand to assist with interpreting where required. A further 4 staff who spoke a language other than English supported early voting services.

Arrangements for voting before election day

Early voting

Electors unable to vote on election day had the opportunity to vote early at either of the two early voting centres located in Lyndhurst District.

The early voting centres for the Lyndhurst District by-election were located at:

- Lyndhurst Early Voting Centre (AWA), Shop 2 & 3, 31-32 Douglas Street, Noble Park
- Hampton Park Early Voting Centre (AWA), Shop 68, 166 Somerville Road, Hampton Park

Early voting centres were open between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday from Tuesday, 2 April 2013. Extended opening hours were available on Saturday 20 April (9.00 am – 2.00 pm) and on Wednesday 24 April when centres were open until 8.00 pm.

A total of 8005 electors (18.43% of those on the roll for the by-election) who were unable to vote on election day voted early in person for the by-election, compared with 5,159 (12.41% of total enrolment) for the District at the 2010 State election.

Of note, 55 electors were turned away from the Early Voting centres because they did not fulfil the eligibility criteria for casting an early vote.

Mobile voting

A total of 404 electors took advantage of mobile voting, with a mobile voting team visiting seven venues in the week prior to election day.

Voting interstate and overseas

Early voting services were provided at eight interstate locations.

A total of 15 early votes were cast outside Victoria for the Lyndhurst District by-election. This compares with 99 for the District at the 2010 State election.

Postal voting

Electors unable to attend a voting centre on election day could also apply for a postal vote. Postal vote applications were available to download at vec.vic.gov.au, and could be obtained at any post office in the District or by calling the VEC.

Postal vote applications were also printed and distributed by the Australian Labor Party. Five postal votes were issued outside of Victoria for the Lyndhurst District by-election. This compares with 10 at the 2010 State election.

To help ensure the efficient delivery of ballot packs, postal vote applications were processed on the day they were received by the VEC. As postal vote applications could be received up until 6.00 pm on the Wednesday prior to the election, the VEC contacted anyone whose application was received on that day to advise them that their vote had to be postmarked before or on election day to be included in the count, and to inform them of their voting options.

A total of 3,397 postal vote applications were processed. Voting material was also despatched to 439 registered General Postal Voters, and 3,252 postal votes were counted for the by-election. Figure 1 shows the percentage of total votes that were cast before election day at the past six by-elections.

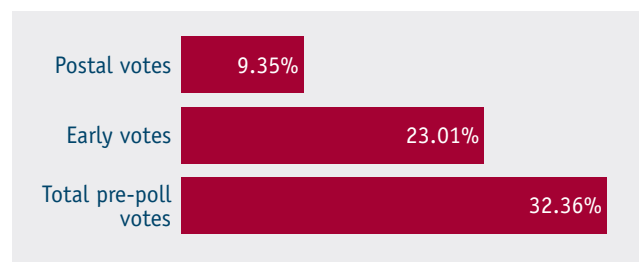


Figure 1: Votes cast before election day, Lyndhurst District by-election 2013 (Proportion of total votes)

6. SERVICES TO REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

Voting on election day

Electors could vote at any of the 15 voting centres open across the District on election day.

All voting centres were audited and rated for wheelchair accessibility using the VEC accessibility audit tool. Eight voting centres were rated fully wheelchair accessible, six were rated as assisted wheelchair accessible and one was rated as having no wheelchair accessibility. These ratings were included in advertisements, in the *EasyVote* letter and on the VEC website.

Provisional votes

Legislative changes introduced in 2010 enabled votes to be cast by people who were not on the roll but who claimed to be entitled to enrol and vote. They were required to show a proof of identification such as a driver licence or learner permit, or to nominate a service provider to be contacted for identity verification.

Votes cast in this manner were classified as 'provisional' votes until the person's enrolment details could be verified through confirmation by VicRoads, an electricity utility or a council.

A total of 336 provisional votes (52.26% of the 643 provisional votes received) were admitted to the count. Most of the provisional votes received could not be included as the voters were found to be enrolled outside the Lyndhurst District.

Eight candidates nominated for the Lyndhurst District by-election compared with seven candidates for the District at the 2010 State election.

Nomination forms for independent candidates could be completed on the VEC website or could be obtained by calling the VEC directly. Parties nominated their candidates directly with the VEC and independent candidates nominated through the election office.

The VEC provided a VEC Candidate Kit that included a handbook explaining aspects of electoral law directly relating to candidates. Candidates also received:

- A how-to-vote card declaration
- An 'Appointment of Scrutineer' form
- An Electoral Roll Confidentiality Agreement
- A list of voting centres in the District (and early voting centres)
- Estimated votes and the number of issuing points at each voting centre
- Election Manager contact details
- A nomination form
- A District fact sheet

Upon request after nominating, candidates were provided with a copy of the electoral roll for the District (on CD ROM) for the purposes of campaigning – in compliance with section 33(6) of the *Electoral Act 2002*.

By-election briefings for parties and candidates

Registered political parties were invited to attend individual briefing sessions between Wednesday, 6 and Friday, 15 March 2013. Four parties participated.

Prospective independent candidates were invited to attend a briefing session conducted on Tuesday, 12 March 2013 at the election office. One potential candidate participated.

7. COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Registration of how-to-vote cards

How-to-vote cards that are distributed within 400 metres of a voting centre on election day must be registered with the VEC. Political parties were required to register how-to-vote cards directly with the VEC. Independent candidates could submit their cards with the Election Manager for registration by the VEC.

A how-to-vote card checklist was provided in each candidate's handbook, to ensure that all cards were correct, authorised and properly registered.

A total of nine how-to-vote cards were registered for the Lyndhurst District by-election (see Figure 3: How-to-vote cards registered at the Lyndhurst District by-election 2013). As required by legislation, all registered how-to-vote cards were published on the VEC website.

Party/Candidate/Stakeholder	# HTVCs
The Australian Labor Party	1
The Australian Greens	2
Democratic Labor Party	1
Family First Victoria	1
Australian Sex Party	1
Vo, Thuy Hung	1
Singh, Jatinda	1
Linaker, David Hugh	1

Figure 2: How-to-vote cards registered at the Lyndhurst District by-election 2013

The Lyndhurst District by-election communication campaign consisted of direct mail, newspaper advertising, a telephone enquiry service, media relations, Facebook and Twitter posts, and information and services provided on the VEC website.

Direct mail

The VEC distributed 23,572 enrolment information letters to households in Lyndhurst District from Tuesday, 5 March 2013.

Following the close of rolls, an *EasyVote* letter was sent to each elector on the roll (excluding General Postal Voters). The *EasyVote* letter included information about early voting, postal voting, overseas and interstate voting and election day voting arrangements. It also included the location and accessibility rating of all voting centres and a suggestion that the elector take the letter to the voting centre to help streamline the voting experience.

A total of 43,002 *EasyVote* letters were lodged for distribution on Friday, 22 March 2013. General Postal Voters were sent ballot material two business days after nominations closed.

Newspaper advertising

A series of advertisements that met the requirements set out in the *Electoral Act 2002* appeared in local newspapers, as well as in *The Age* and *Herald Sun* throughout the election period (see Appendix D for placement details and advertisement samples).

Telephone enquiry service

The by-election office operated a dedicated telephone enquiry service.

Calls to the office peaked each time a mail-out occurred, with electors calling to:

- Check enrolment details
- Ask for advice about what to do if they could not attend a voting centre on election day
- Inquire about the location of election day voting centres

Email information

Electors could also email the VEC with requests and queries via its info@vec.vic.gov.au email address.

The main types of queries received during the election period related to:

- Voting overseas
- Who must vote
- Where to vote
- Employment opportunities

The VEC received 31 emails via its info email address.

Website

From the day the writ was issued, the VEC website provided information about the by-election for electors in the District, candidates and the general public. Traffic to the website increased significantly from Tuesday, 5 March 2013 through to election day, when usage spiked with more than 2,970 unique visitors accessing the site.

Electors were able to update their enrolment details online via an Australian Electoral Commission interactive form. Information available online detailed voting obligations and provided information on options for electors if they could not vote on election day.

Postal vote applications were available for download, and the locations of early (in person) voting centres and all interstate and overseas locations were provided.

During this period, the most frequently accessed content was mapping and geographic information followed by the 'check your enrolment' service and the form to update enrolment online. Candidate information, nomination forms and how-to-vote cards were also available on the website.

Election day voting centres and their accessibility rating were listed, with maps showing the physical location of each centre. Results were made available on the VEC website progressively via the VEC's Election Management System.

Social media

Both Facebook and Twitter were used by the VEC throughout the Lyndhurst District by-election to help disseminate key election information and updates.

To encourage enrolment and participation, motivational messages that targeted 18 – 35 year old citizens were posted by the VEC Communication team on the VEC Facebook 'wall'. These included enrolment, nominations and voting.

Twitter again proved to be a strong platform for active discussion throughout the by-election. VEC's Twitter following grew from approximately 1,275 users after the beginning of the election period to over 1,400 on election night as results were posted. In addition, numerous others posted about the election without necessarily following the VEC directly.

Lyndhurst District by-election posts were predominantly grouped around the '#lyndhurst' tag. There were 2,040 posts during the election period using that tag between 27 February and 6 May, including posts from activists, political parties, candidates, commentators, electors and the VEC. It should be noted that this tag was simultaneously being used by residents of Lyndhurst, New Jersey in the USA, so a portion of posts using the tag were not directly relevant to the by-election.

Early in the by-election the VEC posted several options for a more discrete tag, however, discussion naturally reverted to the simple '#lyndhurst' option. This is against the recent trend of elections including 'votes' in the tag. For example, discussion about the 2012 Melbourne by-election congregated around the tag '#MelbVotes' and the 2012 council elections usually included the tag '#CouncilVotes'.

Once again, several journalists who were covering the by-election followed the '#lyndhurst' feed which correlated with fewer media enquiries through other channels.

8. ELECTRONIC ROLL MARK-OFF

Media relations

The VEC distributed five media releases to local and State-wide media throughout the election period. A media results advisory notice was also issued. The media release announcing the details of the by-election was also distributed in several languages other than English that were widely spoken in the District.

Enquiries relating to the by-election were received from nine journalists through traditional channels, with most contacting the VEC a number of times throughout the election period. Further questions were asked via twitter and many journalists empirically cited twitter as their primary resource after the election. A large proportion of enquiries were received between election night and the following Monday.

The majority of the enquiries concerned the timing of the by-election, where the media could film the count, and when results would be available.

<u>Release</u>	<u>Dispatch date</u>
State by-election in April	Tuesday, 5 March 2013
Call for candidates to stand for Lyndhurst District	Wednesday, 6 March 2013
Roll closed for Lyndhurst District by-election	Thursday, 14 March 2013
Candidates announced for Lyndhurst by-election	Thursday, 28 March 2013
Voting options for Lyndhurst District electors	Friday, 5 April 2013

Figure 3: Media Release Schedule

The by-election for the State District of Lyndhurst was the third VEC occasion at which electors were marked off an electronic roll (eRoll).

Roll mark-off during early voting was conducted using netbooks. During the early voting period, over 7,972 early votes were taken including 404 votes at seven mobile early voting venues in the District, 5,521 at the Early Voting Centre within the District and 2,047 at the Early Voting Centre at Hampton Park.

On election day, around 50 netbooks were deployed across the 15 voting centres and by close of voting 12,279 votes had been issued. Shortly after voting centres opened on election day, some election officials reported they were experiencing problems with the online roll marking application. In this instance, election officials reverted to manual roll marking. The problem, which was fixed by 10.00 am, was traced to a setting that was limiting the number of connections. Short Messaging Service (SMS) enabled the VEC to communicate simultaneously to all voting centres keeping staff informed until the issue was resolved.

Training in the use of netbooks was provided for early voting staff, voting centre managers and election officials using a mixture of face-to-face sessions, paper documents, DVD and video distributed over YouTube. The aim was to familiarise all users on the operation of the netbooks well in advance of election day, and to advise them that all ordinary votes were to be marked off electronically.

The recording of a timestamp with each roll mark enables comprehensive tracking of voting behaviour, as well as an immediate indication of individual user and voting centre activity.

Online reporting of numbers of votes issued was instantly available to voting centre managers. The use of netbooks for roll mark-off in the setting of a by-election also eliminates the risk of a person voting more than once in their own name.

9. COUNTING THE VOTES

After the 6.00 pm close of voting, the first-preference count took place in the voting centres and the results were phoned through to the election office.

A two-candidate-preferred (2CP) count to distribute preferences to the two candidates considered most likely to be in the lead after the distribution of preferences was conducted following each count of first-preference votes. The VEC had initially selected the ALP and the Greens for the 2CP count. After election night, it became apparent that the leading two candidates were Martin Pakula (ALP) and Stephen Nowland (Family First). The VEC subsequently distributed preferences between these two candidates to achieve an overall 2CP split. The purpose of the 2CP count is to provide detailed information for political parties and analysts.

Postal and early votes were counted in the election office on election night in the same count order as in the voting centres.

Provisional votes were checked on the Monday after election day and those entitled to be admitted were counted.

A recheck was conducted on all ballot papers on the Monday and Tuesday following the election. As there was not a clear majority, a preference distribution was conducted to determine the result of the election.

10. DECLARATION OF RESULT, RETURN OF THE WRIT

Martin Pakula (Australian Labor Party – Victorian Branch) was declared the successful candidate on Wednesday, 1 May 2013.

The writ was returned on Monday, 6 May 2013.

11. PARTICIPATION

The VEC uses three measures to determine participation in the electoral system:

1. Enrolment: the proportion of the eligible voting population that enrolls to vote
2. Turn-out: the degree to which those who are enrolled actually vote in elections
3. Informality of voting: the degree to which those who vote cast an informal vote

Enrolment

Between the issue of the writ and the close of roll, 1,070 electors enrolled or updated their enrolment details. At the close of roll, there were 43,441 electors enrolled, 1,863 more than at the close of roll for the 2010 State election.

See section 5 of this report for information about enrolment.

Turnout

The turnout for the Lyndhurst District by-election was 80.07%. This participation rate was considered satisfactory, particularly since the Liberal party did not stand a candidate for the by-election.

Informal voting

The informality rate of 9.45% was an increase on the informality rate of 7.06% for Lyndhurst District at the 2010 State election.

The informality rate for Lyndhurst District is higher than the average informality rate of 8.32% for the five most recent State by-elections (excluding Lyndhurst).

An analysis of informal voting at the Lyndhurst District by-election is included in Appendix E.

12. REFUND OF NOMINATION DEPOSITS

Upon nominating for an election, candidates (or their party) must provide a deposit of \$350. This deposit is refunded if the candidate obtains at least 4% of the first preference vote or is elected. Deposits were refunded on 15 May 2013.

Of the eight candidates, 7 were refunded their deposit, and 1 candidate forfeited the deposit with the funds being forwarded to consolidated revenue.

13. ELECTORAL ENTITLEMENTS

An amount of \$1.55886 per vote was payable to political parties and independent candidates for this election where candidates obtained at least 4% of the first-preference votes.

An entitlement exists for five party candidates and two independent candidates. At the time of this report, six candidates had been paid the entitlement.

<u>Registered Political Parties</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Pakula, Martin (Australian Labour Party)	\$20,107.74
Gonsalvez, Geraldine (Democratic Labour Party)	\$5,404.57
Nowland, Stephen (Family First Party)	\$6,943.16
Leahy, Martin (Australian Sex Party)	\$4,107.60
Springle, Nina (Australian Greens)	\$4,614.23
	\$41,777.29
<u>Independent Candidates</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Vo, Hung	\$4,785.70
Linaker, David	\$2,135.64
	\$6,921.34

Figure 4: Electoral entitlements, 2013 Lyndhurst District by-election

14. ENFORCEMENT OF COMPULSORY VOTING

Postal vote declarations received too late for the count, and elector information reports completed at voting centres – detailing elector excuses for not voting – were processed through the compulsory voting module of the VEC's Election Management System.

The first stage of the non-voter follow-up process is conducted under Part 9, Division 2 of the *Electoral Act 2002*. Subsequent follow-up of electors who do not respond to the 'Apparent Failure to Vote' notice, or who provide an invalid response, is conducted under the *Infringements Act 2006*.

Electors who are deemed to be non-voters may receive two further notices from the VEC. The first is an Infringement Notice providing notification of liability for a penalty amount (currently set at \$70). The second is a penalty reminder notice and includes costs as well as the original penalty.

Payment of penalties may be by cheque, money order, cash, EFTPOS, via the internet using BPAY, or at any Australia Post outlet using the PostBillPay facility.

The first stage of compulsory voting follow-up commenced on 21 June 2013 with 6,919 Apparent Failure to Vote notices mailed out.

On 2 August 2013, 4,964 Infringement notices were mailed to apparent non-voters who either did not respond to the Apparent Failure to Vote notice, or provided an invalid excuse.

On 4 October 2013, 3,286 Penalty Reminder notices were mailed to people who did respond to the Infringement notice. The total of infringement penalties collected to date is \$121,607. Funds have been transferred to consolidated revenue.

On 19 December 2013, a final court file containing 2,611 outstanding infringements was lodged with the Infringements Court.

15. COMPLAINTS

The VEC received no formal complaints about the Lyndhurst District by-election.

APPENDIX A: DETAILED VOTING STATISTICS

Total Enrolment as at close of rolls: 43,441

Formal Votes: 31,494

Informal Votes: 3,288 (9.45% of the total votes)

Total Votes: 34,782 (80.07% of the total enrolment
as at the close of rolls rechecked)

Voting Centres	Leahy, Martin Sex Party	Springle, Nina Greens	Vo, Hung	Singh, Bobby
Coomoora	241	215	421	25
Dandenong South	48	83	18	16
Hampton Park	84	60	21	23
Hampton Park East	129	168	21	53
Heatherhill	72	77	233	5
Keysborough	212	285	180	38
Keysborough Park	51	65	58	2
Lynbrook	161	202	49	60
Lyndhurst	132	108	22	45
Noble Park	126	118	140	20
Noble Park South	163	86	185	17
Southvale	56	57	102	4
Springvale	28	47	172	4
Springvale South	194	172	485	25
Wallarano	184	163	225	34
Ordinary Votes Total	1,881	1,906	2,332	371
Postal Votes	236	213	209	82
Early Votes	492	802	478	170
Marked As Voted Votes	0	0	0	0
Provisional Votes	26	39	51	16
Absent Votes	0	0	0	0
Total	2,635	2,960	3,070	639
Percentage of formal vote polled by candidate	8.37%	9.40%	9.75%	2.03%

Nowland, Stephen Family First	Linaker, David	Pakula, Martin ALP	Gonsalvez, Geraldine DLP	Informal Votes	Total Votes Polled
380	84	1,026	196	307	2,895
80	20	407	81	92	845
211	24	402	104	113	1,042
255	36	572	159	163	1,556
144	21	419	87	131	1,189
366	91	818	246	282	2,518
105	24	195	44	57	601
348	73	833	285	196	2,207
273	51	531	138	120	1,420
252	31	539	120	202	1,548
181	33	617	120	161	1,563
54	11	168	18	45	515
38	5	210	20	61	585
240	68	874	171	224	2,453
335	50	829	170	262	2,252
3,262	622	8,440	1,959	2,416	23,189
497	226	1,359	279	151	3,252
642	516	3,005	1,204	696	8,005
0	0	0	0	0	0
53	6	95	25	25	336
0	0	0	0	0	0
4,454	1,370	12,899	3,467	3,288	34,782
14.14%	4.35%	40.96%	11.01%		

APPENDIX B: DISTRIBUTION OF PREFERENCE VOTES


	Leahy, Martin Sex Party	Springle, Nina Greens	Vo, Hung
Total first preference votes recorded for each candidate	2,635	2,960	3,070
Transfer of 639 ballot-papers of Singh, Bobby (1st excluded candidate)	49	96	155
Progressive Total	2,684	3,056	3,225
Transfer of 1,424 ballot-papers of Linaker, David (2nd excluded candidate)	119	96	525
Progressive Total	2,803	3,152	3,750
Transfer of 2,803 ballot-papers of Leahy, Martin (3rd excluded candidate)		1,368	430
Progressive Total		4,520	4,180
Transfer of 3,839 ballot-papers of Gonsalvez, Geraldine (4th excluded candidate)		558	320
Progressive Total		5,078	4,500
Transfer of 4,500 ballot-papers of Vo, Hung (5th excluded candidate)		1,629	
Progressive Total		6,707	
Transfer of 6,707 ballot-papers of Springle, Nina (6th excluded candidate)			
FINAL TOTAL			

Name of elected candidate: Pakula, Martin

Singh, Bobby	Nowland, Stephen Family First	Linaker, David	Pakula, Martin ALP	Gonsalvez, Geraldine DLP	Total
639	4,454	1,370	12,899	3,467	31,494
	133	54	84	68	639
	4,587	1,424	12,983	3,535	31,494
	391		177	116	1,424
	4,978		13,160	3,651	31,494
	400		417	188	2,803
	5,378		13,577	3,839	31,494
	1,766		1,195		3,839
	7,144		14,772		31,494
	2,019		852		4,500
	9,163		15,624		31,494
	4,370		2,337		6,707
	13,533		17,961		31,494

APPENDIX C: COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

Enrolment letter that was sent to each household



Important information:
Lyndhurst District by-election

To the householder

Are you correctly enrolled?

A by-election for your District is being held on Saturday, 27 April 2013. By law, if you are an Australian citizen over the age of 18, you must be enrolled at your current address.

If you've moved since you last enrolled, or have changed your name or post office box, you must update your enrolment details by **8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2013**.

If you are an Australian citizen, aged 18 or over and you are not enrolled, you need to enrol immediately.

How do you check if you are on the roll?

Check online at vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478.

Update your enrolment online

To update your address or post office box, just visit vec.vic.gov.au and use the online application to complete an electronic enrolment update with no need for paper forms. To do this you will need a driver licence number.

Updating other details or enrolling for the first time

To enrol for the first time, update your name only, or if you don't have a driver licence, you can pre-complete a form online at vec.vic.gov.au and then print it out for signing.

Completed enrolment forms should be mailed immediately to the Victorian Electoral Commission, Reply Paid 66506, Melbourne, Victoria, 8001 (no stamp is required). Alternatively, you can fax it to (03) 9277 7126, email a scanned copy to elector@vec.vic.gov.au or deliver the form in person to one of the offices listed below:

- Australian Electoral Commission, Shop 2, 15 Childers Street, Cranbourne
- Australian Electoral Commission, 3rd Floor, 20–22 Atherton Road, Oakleigh
- Australian Electoral Commission, Suite 2, 1265 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham
- Victorian Electoral Commission, Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne
- Election office, Shops 2 & 3, 31–32 Douglas Street, Noble Park.

Enrolment forms are also available from any post office, Centrelink or Australian Electoral Commission office. You must ensure that you're enrolled and that your details are correct by **8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2013**.


Do you have to enrol?

Enrolling and keeping your enrolment details up-to-date are compulsory. However, if you have never enrolled or have let your details lapse, you will not be penalised if you enrol for this by-election.

Voting in the by-election

The VEC will write to all enrolled voters before election day providing information about how and where to vote.

If you are registered as a General Postal Voter, your ballot material will be mailed to you from **Tuesday, 2 April 2013**.




Liz Williams
Acting Electoral Commissioner

Check your enrolment online at vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
• ИМЊИСТ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
• Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داري 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean
• Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • فارسي 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian
• Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
• All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by E.A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria

EasyVote letter that was sent to every person on the roll (front)

Your EasyVote letter:
Lyndhurst District by-election

Dear voter

Important information: Election day is Saturday, 27 April 2013.

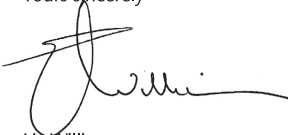
A by-election is being held due to the resignation of the Member for Lyndhurst District.

Election day is Saturday, 27 April 2013. It is **compulsory** for you to vote in this by-election as you were on the roll for Lyndhurst District at the close of roll on Tuesday, 12 March 2013.

Voting centre locations are listed on the back of this letter. If you are unable to attend a voting centre on election day, for example, if you are working, or you are interstate or overseas, you are eligible to vote prior to election day at an early voting centre. Early voting centres are detailed on the back of this letter.

If voting in person, take this EasyVote letter with you. You can vote without it, but having it with you can help make your voting experience easier.

Yours sincerely



Liz Williams
Acting Electoral Commissioner

Arabic التصويت إلزامي في هذه الانتخابات في يوم السبت 27 أبريل/نيسان 2013. للمساعدة بواسطة مترجم شفهي، اتصل هاتفياً على الرقم 9209 0100.

Cantonese 請務必在2013年4月27日星期六選舉日務投票，投票是法律規定。如果需要傳譯員協助，請致電9209 1100。

Croatian Glasovanje je obvezno dolaskom na izborno mjesto u subotu, 27. travnja 2013. Ako vam je potreban tumač, nazovite 9209 0102.

Greek Η ψηφοφορία είναι υποχρεωτική σ' αυτή την εκλογική προσέλευση το Σάββατο, 27 Απριλίου 2013. Για τη βοήθεια διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνήστε το 9209 0103.

Indonesian Anda diwajibkan memberikan suara dalam pemilihan 'hadir tatap muka' ini pada hari Sabtu, 27 April 2013. Untuk bantuan juru bahasa, silakan hubungi 9209 0112.

Italian Votare è obbligatorio alle elezioni del 27 Aprile 2013. Per avere l'assistenza di un interprete, chiamare al numero 9209 0104.

Macedonian Гласањето е задолжително за во сабота, 27 Април 2013. За помош со преведувач јавете се на 9209 0105.

Mandarin 请务必在2013年4月27日星期六选举日务投票，投票是法律规定。如果需要传译员协助，请电9209 1100。

Sinhalese 2013 අප්‍රේල් 27 වන සෙනසුරාදා පැවැත්වෙන මෙම පැමිණ සිටින්නන්ගේ ඡන්ද විමසීමේදී ඡන්දය දීම අනිවාර්යය. භාෂණ පරිවර්තකයන්ගේ සේවය සඳහා 9209 0112 යන අංකය අමතන්න.

Spanish Es obligatorio ir votar en las elecciones del sábado 27 de abril del 2013. Para obtener la ayuda de un intérprete, llame al 9209 0109.

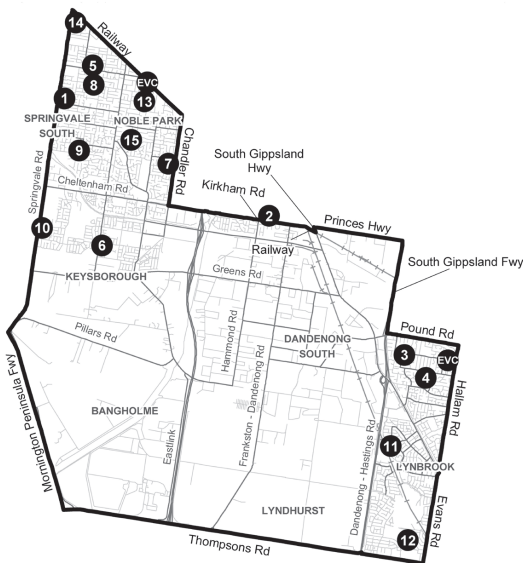
Vietnamese Việc bỏ phiếu là bắt buộc đối với cuộc bầu cử trực tiếp này vào Thứ Bảy ngày 27 tháng Tư năm 2013. Để có thông dịch viên giúp đỡ, hãy điện thoại số 9209 0111.

English Voting is compulsory for this attendance election on Saturday, 27 April 2013. For interpreter assistance, telephone 9209 0112.

EasyVote letter that was sent to every person on the roll (back)

Where can I vote?

You can vote at any one of the following voting centres within Lyndhurst District from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on Saturday, 27 April 2013.



Voting centre locations

1. Athol Road Primary School – West Campus
159-167 Athol Road
Springvale South **FWA**
2. Dandenong South Primary School
52 Kirkham Road
Dandenong South **FWA**
3. Hampton Park Primary School
corner Regans and Somerville Roads
Hampton Park **NWA**
4. Hampton Park Secondary College
58-96 Fordholm Road
Hampton Park **FWA**
5. Heatherhill Primary School
959 Heatherton Road
Springvale **FWA**
6. Isik College – Keysborough Campus
139 Chapel Road
Keysborough **FWA**
7. Keysborough College – Acacia Campus
28 Isaac Road
Keysborough **FWA**
8. Keysborough College – Banksia Campus
8-20 Janine Road
Springvale South **AWA**
9. Keysborough Primary School
33 Coomoora Road
Springvale South **FWA**
10. Lighthouse Christian College
927-937 Springvale Road
Keysborough **FWA**
11. Lynbrook Primary School
corner Paterson Drive and Ronans Retreat
Lynbrook **AWA**
12. Lyndhurst Primary School
70 Brookwater Parade (access via Boland Drive)
Lyndhurst **AWA**
13. Noble Park Primary School
65 Buckley Street
Noble Park **AWA**
14. Springvale Rise Primary School – Springvale Campus
355a Springvale Road
Springvale **AWA**
15. Wallarano Primary School
38-64 Wallarano Drive
Noble Park **AWA**

FWA = Fully wheelchair accessible, AWA = Assisted wheelchair access, NWA = Not wheelchair accessible

What if I can't vote on election day?

If you can't get to a voting centre on election day, Saturday, 27 April, you can vote at an early voting centre listed below. Early voting centres are open between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm on weekdays from Tuesday, 2 April to Friday, 26 April (including ANZAC Day), with extended hours on Saturday, 20 April (9.00 am to 2.00 pm) and Wednesday, 24 April (8.30 am to 8.00 pm).

- EVC** Lyndhurst Early Voting Centre, Shop 2 & 3, 31-32 Douglas Street, Noble Park (**AWA**); and
- EVC** Hampton Park Early Voting Centre, Shop 68, 166 Somerville Road, Hampton Park (**AWA**).

If you will be outside Victoria on election day, you can vote by post or in person at an early voting centre. Voting is also available at Victoria House, London, UK, and at various interstate locations. Visit vec.vic.gov.au or call + 61 3 9548 0223 for locations.

Voting by post

If you can't get to a voting centre on election day or vote at an early voting centre before election day, you can apply for a postal vote. Postal vote applications are available at Australia Post offices in Lyndhurst District, online at vec.vic.gov.au or by calling the election office on 9548 0223.

The VEC must receive your postal vote application by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, 24 April. This will allow the VEC to send your ballot pack to you in time for you to complete and post the ballot paper before election day.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory if you were on the State or Federal roll for Lyndhurst District at 8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March. You may be fined if you do not vote.

Information: 9548 0223 or vec.vic.gov.au

Authorised by E.A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

APPENDIX D: ADVERTISING SCHEDULE AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising schedule

Advertisement	Outlet	Publication date
Enrolment	The Age	Saturday, 2 March 2013
	Herald Sun	Saturday, 2 March 2013
Issue of the writ and nominations	The Age	Wednesday, 6 March 2013
	Herald Sun	Wednesday, 6 March 2013
	Cranbourne Leader	Wednesday, 6 March 2013
	21st Century Chinese Weekly	Wednesday, 6 March 2013
	Cranbourne News	Thursday, 7 March 2013
	Dandenong Star	Thursday, 7 March 2013
	Viet Times	Friday, 8 March 2013
Voting before election day	Dandenong Leader	Monday, 1 April 2013
	Dandenong Journal	Monday, 1 April 2013
	Cranbourne Leader	Wednesday, 3 April 2013
	21st Century Chinese Weekly	Wednesday, 3 April 2013
	Dandenong Star	Thursday, 4 April 2013
	Crabourne News	Thursday, 4 April 2013
	Australian Chinese Daily	Saturday, 6 April 2013
	Viet Times	Saturday, 6 April 2013
How to vote	Smaradey Khmer (Cambodian)	Thursday, 18 April 2013
	Australian Chinese Daily	Saturday, 20 April 2013
	Viet Times	Saturday, 20 April 2013
	Dandenong Leader	Monday, 22 April 2013
	Dandenong Journal	Monday, 22 April 2013
	Cranbourne Leader	Wednesday, 24 April 2013
	21st Century Chinese Weekly	Wednesday, 24 April 2013
	Crabourne News	Thursday, 25 April 2013
	Dandenong Star	Saturday, 27 April 2013
Vote today	The Age	Saturday, 27 April 2013
	Herald Sun	Saturday, 27 April 2013
Results and return of the writ	The Age	Friday, 17 May 2013
	Herald Sun	Friday, 17 May 2013

Advertising: Enrolment

State by-election: Lyndhurst District

A by-election for the District of Lyndhurst will be held on Saturday, 27 April 2013 following the resignation of the Hon. Tim Holding, MP.
The following dates will apply:
Close of roll: 8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2013
Nominations close: 12 noon on Thursday, 28 March 2013
Election day: Saturday, 27 April 2013
Return of the writ: On or before Friday, 17 May 2013

Make sure you're enrolled to vote!
You are already enrolled for the Lyndhurst District by-election if you're on the State or Federal roll for your present address within the area shown on the map.
If you're an Australian citizen, aged 18 years or more and have never enrolled, you must enrol to vote immediately.
If you have recently moved or changed your name, you must update your enrolment by **8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2013.**

How do I check if I'm on the roll?
You can check your enrolment details to see if you are current at vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478.

Updating your details online
To update your address, just visit vec.vic.gov.au and use the online application to update your enrolment with no need for paper forms.
If you are enrolling for the first time, or you have changed your name, or you don't have a driver licence, you can pre-complete your form online at vec.vic.gov.au. You will then need to print it out, sign it and have it witnessed prior to returning it.
For more information please visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478.

Updating or enrolling using a paper form

If you would prefer to enrol or update your details on a paper form, you can collect an enrolment form from any post office, Centrelink or Australian Electoral Commission office.

Enrolling is compulsory

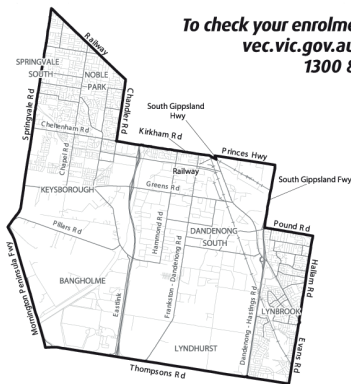
Enrolling and keeping your enrolment details current are compulsory.

When do I vote?

Election day is **Saturday, 27 April 2013**. Details of where to vote and how to vote early will be available shortly and mailed to enrolled electors within Lyndhurst District, advertised in local newspapers and made available online at vec.vic.gov.au.

Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors.

To check your enrolment visit vec.vic.gov.au or call **1300 805 478**



For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
• 阿拉伯語 9209 0190 Arabic • بوسني 9209 0191 Bosnian • ភ្នំ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
• Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داری 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean
• Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 普通话 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • پارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian
• Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
• All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Every vote will shape Victoria

Victorian Electoral Commission VEC

Authorised by E.A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Advertising: Issue of the writ and nominations

State by-election: Lyndhurst District

I have received the writ from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Ken Smith, MP, issued on Tuesday, 5 March 2013, for the election of one member of the Legislative Assembly for Lyndhurst District.

The writ specifies the following dates for the by-election:
Close of roll: 8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2013
Nominations close: 12 noon on Thursday, 28 March 2013
Election day: Saturday, 27 April 2013
Return of the writ: On or before Friday, 17 May 2013

**E.A. Williams
Acting Electoral Commissioner
530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria**

Make sure you're enrolled to vote!
You are already enrolled for the Lyndhurst District by-election if you're on the State or Federal roll for your present address within the area shown on the map.
If you're an Australian citizen, aged 18 years or more and have never enrolled, you must enrol to vote immediately.
If you have recently moved or changed your name, you must update your enrolment by **8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2013.**

How do I check if I'm on the roll?
You can check your enrolment details to see if they are current at vec.vic.gov.au or by calling 1300 805 478.

Updating your details online
To update your address, just visit vec.vic.gov.au and use the online application to update your enrolment with no need for paper forms.
If you are enrolling for the first time, or you have changed your name, or you don't have a driver licence, you can use the online application at vec.vic.gov.au to pre-complete your form. You will then need to print it out, sign it and have it witnessed prior to returning it.
For more information please visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478.

Updating or enrolling using a paper form

If you would prefer to enrol or update your details on a paper form, you can collect an enrolment form from any post office, Centrelink or Australian Electoral Commission office.

Enrolling is compulsory

Enrolling and keeping your enrolment details current are compulsory.

When do I vote?

Election day is **Saturday, 27 April 2013**. Details of where to vote and how to vote early will be available shortly and mailed to enrolled electors within Lyndhurst District, advertised in local newspapers and made available online at vec.vic.gov.au.

Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors.

Candidate information

Registered political parties must nominate candidates at the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne. Nominations close at 12 noon on Wednesday, 27 March 2013. Late nominations cannot be accepted.

Candidates not endorsed by a registered political party must nominate with the Election Manager, Bill Lang, at Shops 2 & 3, 31-32 Douglas Street, Noble Park. The Election Manager will supply a Candidate Kit, which includes a nomination form. Nominations close at 12 noon on Thursday, 28 March 2013.

Late nominations cannot be accepted.
The Election Manager will conduct an information session for intending non-party candidates at 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2013 at the election office, Shop 2 & 3, 31-32 Douglas Street, Noble Park.

For more information on nominating, please contact the Election Manager, Bill Lang, on 9548 0223.

How-to-vote cards

If a person or organisation intends to distribute how-to-vote cards on election day, Saturday, 27 April 2013, the cards must be registered by the VEC.

Registered how-to-vote cards are the only form of printed electoral material that may be distributed within 400 metres of a voting centre on election day (penalties apply).
The period for submitting how-to-vote cards for registration is from Tuesday, 2 April 2013 to 12 noon on Thursday, 18 April 2013.

Organisations or individuals other than registered political parties can submit how-to-vote cards to the Election Manager, Bill Lang, or to the VEC.
Registered political parties must submit their how-to-vote cards for registration to the VEC at Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne.

How-to-vote cards submitted for registration after 12 noon on Thursday, 18 April 2013 cannot be accepted.



For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
• 阿拉伯語 9209 0190 Arabic • بوسني 9209 0191 Bosnian • ភ្នំ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داری 9209 0193 Dari
• Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 普通话 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • پارسی 9209 0195 Persian
• Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
• All other non-English languages 9209 0112

vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission VEC

Authorised by E.A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

facebook.com/electionsvic @electionsvic

Advertising: Issue of the Writ and nominations (Chinese)

州補選：Lyndhurst區

我已經收到維多利亞州州長Ken Smith關於於2013年3月5日星期二發給選民Lyndhurst區選舉一名下議院議員的正式文件。

文件載明的補選日期如下：

登記截止日期： 2013年3月12日星期二晚上8時
提名截止日期： 2013年3月28日星期四中午12時
選舉日期： 2013年5月17日星期六
文件返回日期： 2013年5月17日星期六之前

E.A. Williams
 代理選舉專員
 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria

請確保您已經進行選舉登記！

如果您以地區所屬區域內的當前住址登記且您的名字在州聯邦選民名冊上，則您已經登記參加Lyndhurst區的補選。

如果您是澳洲公民，年滿18歲或以上，而且從未登記過，您必須立即進行選舉登記。

如果您最近剛搬家或者更改姓名，您必須於**2013年3月12日星期三晚上8時**之前更新您的登記資料。

如何查看我是否已在選民名冊上？

您可以登入vec.vic.gov.au或致電1300 805 478查看您的登記資料是否為最新資料。

線上更新您的個人資料

如欲更新您的住址，您可以登入vec.vic.gov.au，使用線上申請程式更新您的登記資料，無需使用任何紙質表格。

如果您是初次登記，或者您更改了姓名，或者您沒有駕駛執照，您可以登入vec.vic.gov.au，申請線上申請表格填寫表格，然後您需將表格列印出來，簽名並讓見證人簽名後才可以遞交。

查詢更多資訊，請致電vec.vic.gov.au或致電1300 805 478。

使用紙質表格更新個人資料或登記

如果您希望使用紙質表格登記或更新您的個人資料，您可以從任何郵局、總匯 (Centrelink) 或澳洲選舉委員會 (VEC) 辦事處領取登記表。

登記是強制性的

登記並及時更新您的登記資料是強制性的。

何時投票？

選舉日是**2013年4月27日星期六**，關於提前投票地點和提前投票方式的詳情請致電Lyndhurst區的已登記選民，並將當地報紙刊登廣告和刊登在vec.vic.gov.au網站上。

所有已登記選民均必須參加投票。

候選人資料

已登記選民必須前往維多利亞選舉委員會 (VEC; Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne) 提名候選人。提名截止時間是2013年3月27日星期三中午12時。逾時將不予接受提名。

非由已登記選民支持的候選人必須向選舉主任Bill Lang提名 (Shop 2 & 3, 31-32 Douglas Street, Noble Park)。選舉主任將提供候選人資料表，包括提名表。提名截止時間是2013年3月28日星期四中午12時。逾時將不予接受提名。

選舉主任將於2013年3月12日星期二在選舉辦事處為有意成為非黨派候選人的人士舉辦資訊會。地點是Shop 2 & 3, 31-32 Douglas Street, Noble Park。

查詢有關提名的更多資訊，請聯絡選舉主任Bill Lang，電話9548 0223。

投票說明卡

如果您或組織有意於選舉日 (2013年4月27日星期六) 分發投票說明卡，則說明卡必須向VEC登記。

已登記的投票說明卡是選民在投票中心400米內唯一可以分發的印刷選票材料 (連者將受到相應處罰)。

遞交投票說明卡以進行登記的時間是2013年4月2日星期二至2013年4月18日星期四中午12時。

不屬於已登記政黨的支持者或個人可以將投票說明卡遞交給選舉主任Bill Lang或VEC。

已登記政黨必須準備登記的投票說明卡遞交給VEC (Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne)。

準備登記的投票說明卡遞交截止時間是2013年4月18日星期四中午12時。逾時將不予接受。



facebook.com/electionsvic @electionsvic

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
 • 粵語 9209 0100 Amharic • 阿拉伯語 9209 0101 Arabic • Босански 9209 0101 Bosnian • 高棉語 9209 0102 Cambodian • 國語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • 丹語 9209 0193 Danish • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 韓語 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • 波斯語 9209 0195 Persian • Pусский 9209 0198 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Tiếng Việt 9209 0111 Vietnamese
 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

vec.vic.gov.au Victorian Electoral Commission VEC
 代理人：代理選舉專員 E.A. Williams, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Advertising: Voting before election day

State by-election: Lyndhurst District

Voting before election day

Election day for the Lyndhurst District by-election is Saturday, 27 April.

If you can't get to a voting centre on election day, there are two ways you can vote in advance.

Vote in person: Early voting locations will be open from Tuesday, 2 April. You can vote between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday, at either:

- Lyndhurst Early Voting Centre
Shop 2 & 3, 31-32 Douglas Street
Noble Park
- Hampton Park Early Voting Centre
Shop 68, 166 Somerville Road
Hampton Park

Both venues are wheelchair accessible with assistance.

Both venues will be open on ANZAC Day (Thursday, 25 April) and extended opening hours are also available on:

- Saturday, 20 April, 9.00 am to 2.00 pm
- Wednesday, 24 April, 8.30 am to 8.00 pm

Vote by post: You can pick up a postal vote application from any post office within Lyndhurst District, download one from vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 551 081 to have one sent to you.

Mail your correctly completed application immediately to: VEC, Reply Pad 76932, Melbourne, Victoria, 8050, or fax it to 9621 1204 and your ballot paper will be sent to you.

Post your completed ballot paper promptly. Ballot papers posted after 6.00 pm on Saturday, 27 April cannot be counted.

Voting if you are going interstate or overseas

If you will be outside Victoria on election day, you can vote before you leave or while you are away.

Before you leave: You can vote by post or in person as described opposite.

While you're away: You can vote at Victoria House, London (UK) or at an interstate location. For locations, visit vec.vic.gov.au or call the Lyndhurst District by-election office on 9548 0223.

Who can vote

Everyone on the State electoral roll for Lyndhurst District can cast a vote at any voting centre.

If you are an Australian citizen, over the age of 18, and you live in Lyndhurst District but have never enrolled, you can enrol and vote on the spot. When you visit a voting centre, simply bring:

- a driver licence or learner permit
- a council rates notice in your name
- an electricity bill in your name for your current home address

or

- a current Victorian identification, such as a Proof of Age card.

If you are on the State electoral roll for another district then you cannot vote in this by-election.

Remember, voting is compulsory

Arabic
 المواطن الأسترالي يجب أن يسجل في سجل الناخبين في 27 أبريل 2013. إذا كنت خارج أستراليا في يوم الانتخابات فستكون قادراً على التصويت مسبقاً في يوم الانتخابات أو عندما تكون في الخارج.

Cantonese
 投票中心將於中文選舉日中午，即星期二(2013年4月2日)上午八時三十分至下午六時，在以下地點開放投票。詳情請電9209 0101，與我們聯絡。瞭解更多詳情。

Croatian
 Austrijski državljanin moraju glasovati na ovim izbornim mjestima od srijednjeg 27. travnja 2013. Ako ne možete glasovati na dan izbora, možete i prije na 9209 0102 (izvan države) ili putem pošte u bilo koje vrijeme.

Greek
 Οι Αυστριακοί πολίτες που ζουν στο εξωτερικό ή σε άλλη χώρα κατά τη διάρκεια της εκλογής στις 27 Απριλίου 2013, Αν δεν μπορείτε να πάρετε την κάρτα ψήφου από το κέντρο ψήφου, μπορείτε να ψήφισετε με το ταχυδρομείο ή να πάτε στα κέντρα ψήφου πριν από την ημέρα της εκλογής.

Indonesian
 Warga negara Australia diharapkan memberikan suaranya dalam pemilihan ini. Hari pemungutan suara 27 April 2013. Apabila anda berhalangan untuk memberikan suara pada hari pemilihan, hal yang sama berlaku bagi pemungutan suara pada hari 2009 0102.

Italian
 I cittadini australiani sono tenuti a votare a queste elezioni. Il giorno delle elezioni è il 27 Aprile 2013. Se non potete votare il giorno delle elezioni chiamatelo al numero 9209 0102 per conoscere altre opzioni di voto.

Macedonian
 Makedonci na Apatranija morat da glasat na ovoj izbornoj danot 27 April 2013. Ako ne možete da glasate na danot glasajte na neko od 9209 0102 ili putem pošte na mjesto.

Mandarin
 澳洲公民必須在中文選舉日中午投票。投票日期是2013年4月27日。如果您在選舉日當天不在澳洲，您可以於投票日前或在海外投票。詳情請電9209 0101，與我們聯絡。瞭解更多詳情。

Sinhalese
 මෙම තේරුම් කිරීමේදී සියලුම ආස්ත්විකයන්ට සියලුම තේරුම් කිරීමේදී සහභාගී වීමට සිදුවේ. 27 අප්‍රේල් 2013 දිනට ඡන්ද දීමට නොහැකි නම් ඡන්ද දීමට පෙර 9209 0102 අංකයට දුරකථන මගින් සම්බන්ධ වන්න.

Spanish
 Los ciudadanos australianos deben votar en estas elecciones. El día de las elecciones es el 27 de abril de 2013. Si no puedes ir a votar el día de las elecciones, llámanos al 9209 0102 para saber otras opciones.

Vietnamese
 Công dân Úc phải bỏ phiếu trong cuộc bầu cử này. Ngày bầu cử là ngày 27 tháng Tư năm 2013. Nếu quý vị không thể bỏ phiếu vào ngày bầu cử này thì quý vị có thể bỏ phiếu trước ngày bầu cử hoặc bỏ phiếu từ nước ngoài. Vui lòng gọi điện thoại số 9209 0102 để biết thêm chi tiết về các lựa chọn bỏ phiếu.

English
 Australian citizens must vote in this election. Election day is 27 April 2013. If you cannot vote on election day call us for other voting options on 9548 0223.

Every vote will shape Victoria Victorian Electoral Commission VEC
 Authorised by E.A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Lyndhurst, Victoria.

Advertising: How to vote

State by-election: Lyndhurst District Voting on election day

Who can vote

Everyone on the State electoral roll for Lyndhurst District can cast a vote at any voting centre. If you are an Australian citizen and you live in Lyndhurst District but have never enrolled, you can enrol and vote on the spot. Simply bring your driver licence or learner permit, a council rates notice or an electricity invoice (in your name) for your home address, or a current Victorian identification (such as a Proof of Age card) when you visit a voting centre. If you are on the roll for another district, you cannot vote in this by-election.

Election day for the Lyndhurst District by-election is Saturday, 27 April.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory if you were on the electoral roll for Lyndhurst District at the close of the roll (8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2013). You may be fined if you do not vote.

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must fill out your ballot paper correctly. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference. You must number every box for your vote to count. Use numbers only.

Candidates

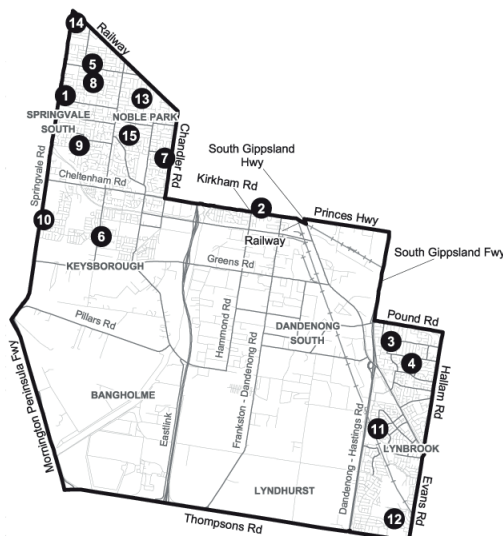
Candidates in the order in which they will appear on your ballot paper are:

- LEAHY, Martin
SEX PARTY
- SPRINGLE, Nina
AUSTRALIAN GREENS
- VO, Hung
- SINGH, Bobby
- NOWLAND, Stephen
FAMILY FIRST
- LINAKE, David
- PAKULA, Martin
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
- GONSALVEZ, Geraldine
D.L.P. - DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY

**For more information please visit
vec.vic.gov.au or call 9548 0223**

The member elected to the Victorian State Parliament Lower House (or Legislative Assembly) as a result of this by-election will serve until the next State election in November 2014.

- Arabic** التصويت إلزامي في هذه الانتخابات في يوم السبت 27 أبريل/نيسان 2013. للمساعدة بواسطة مترجم شفهي، اتصل هاتفياً على الرقم 9209 0100.
- Cantonese** 請務必在2013年4月27日星期六選舉日務投票。投票是法律規定。如果需要傳譯員協助，請致電9209 0101。
- Croatian** Glasovanje je obvezno dolaskom na izbornu mjesto u subotu, 27. travnja 2013. Ako vam je potreban tumač, nazovite 9209 0102.
- Greek** Η ψηφοφορία είναι υποχρεωτική σ' αυτή την εκλογική διαδικασία το Σάββατο, 27 Απριλίου 2013. Για τη βοήθεια διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνήστε το 9209 0103.
- Indonesian** Anda diwajibkan memberikan suara dalam pemilihan 'hadir tatap muka' ini pada hari Sabtu, 27 April 2013. Untuk bantuan juru bahasa, silakan hubungi 9209 0112.
- Italian** Votare è obbligatorio alle elezioni del 27 Aprile 2013. Per avere l'assistenza di un interprete, chiamare al numero 9209 0104.
- Macedonian** Гласањето е задолжително за во сабота, 27 Април 2013. За помош со преведувач јавете се на 9209 0105.
- Mandarin** 請務必在2013年4月27日星期六選舉日務投票。投票是法律規定。如果需要傳譯員協助，請電9209 0106。
- Sinhalese** 2013 අප්‍රේල් 27 දින මහානුවරදා පැවැත්වෙන මෙම මැතිවරණයේ සහභාගීත්වය අත්‍යවශ්‍ය වීම අනිවාර්යය. ආයතනික පරිවර්තකයන්ගේ සේවය සඳහා 9209 0112 යන අංකය අමතන්න.
- Spanish** Es obligatorio ir votar en las elecciones del sábado 27 de abril del 2013. Para obtener la ayuda de un intérprete, llame al 9209 0109.
- Vietnamese** Việc bỏ phiếu là bắt buộc đối với cuộc bầu cử trực tiếp này vào Thứ Bảy ngày 27 tháng Tư năm 2013. Để có thông dịch viên giúp đỡ, hãy điện thoại số 9209 0111.
- English** Voting is compulsory for this attendance election on Saturday, 27 April 2013. For interpreter assistance, telephone 9209 0112.



Voting centres are open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on election day.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Athol Road Primary School - West Campus
159-167 Athol Road
Springvale South FWA | 8. Keysborough College - Banksia Campus
8-20 Janine Road
Springvale South AWA |
| 2. Dandenong South Primary School
52 Kirkham Road
Dandenong South FWA | 9. Keysborough Primary School
33 Coomoora Road
Springvale South FWA |
| 3. Hampton Park Primary School
corner Regans and Somerville Roads
Hampton Park NWA | 10. Lighthouse Christian College
927-937 Springvale Road
Keysborough FWA |
| 4. Hampton Park Secondary College
58-96 Fordholm Road
Hampton Park FWA | 11. Lynbrook Primary School
corner Paterson Drive and Ronans Retreat
Lynbrook AWA |
| 5. Heatherhill Primary School
959 Heatherton Road
Springvale FWA | 12. Lyndhurst Primary School
70 Brookwater Parade (access via Boland Drive)
Lyndhurst AWA |
| 6. Isik College - Keysborough Campus
139 Chapel Road
Keysborough FWA | 13. Noble Park Primary School
65 Buckley Street
Noble Park AWA |
| 7. Keysborough College - Acacia Campus
28 Isaac Road
Keysborough FWA | 14. Springvale Rise Primary School - Springvale Campus
355a Springvale Road
Springvale AWA |
| | 15. Wallarano Primary School
38-64 Wallarano Drive
Noble Park AWA |

FWA - Fully wheelchair accessible
AWA - Assisted wheelchair access
NWA - Not wheelchair accessible

Every vote will shape Victoria

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Advertising: Vote today

State by-election: Lyndhurst District Voting today

How to vote correctly
For your vote to count, you must fill out your ballot paper correctly.
Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference.
You must number every box for your vote to count.
Use numbers only.

Candidates
Candidates in the order in which they will appear on your ballot paper are:

LEAHY, Martin
SEX PARTY

SPRINGLE, Nina
AUSTRALIAN GREENS

VO, Hung

SINGH, Bobby

NOWLAND, Stephen
FAMILY FIRST

LINAKE, David

PAKULA, Martin
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

GONSALVEZ, Geraldine
D.L.P. - DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY

The member elected to the Victorian State Parliament Lower House (or Legislative Assembly) as a result of this by-election will serve until the next State election in November 2014.

Voting is compulsory
Voting is compulsory if you were on the electoral roll for Lyndhurst District at the close of rolls (8.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2013).

You may be fined if you do not vote.

For more information please visit
vec.vic.gov.au or call 9548 0223

Where to vote today

1. Athol Road Primary School - West Campus
159-167 Athol Road
Springvale South FWA
2. Dandenong South Primary School
52 Kirkham Road
Dandenong South FWA
3. Hampton Park Primary School corner Regans and Somerville Roads
Hampton Park NWA
4. Hampton Park Secondary College
58-96 Fortholm Road
Hampton Park FWA
5. Heathcote Primary School
959 Heatherton Road
Springvale FWA
6. Isk College - Keyborough Campus
139 Chapel Road
Keyborough FWA
7. Keyborough College - Acacia Campus
28 Isaac Road
Keyborough FWA
8. Keyborough College - Bankia Campus
8-20 Janine Road
Springvale South AWA
9. Keyborough Primary School
33 Coomoola Road
Springvale South FWA
10. Lighthouse Christian College
927-937 Springvale Road
Keyborough FWA
11. Lyndbrook Primary School corner Paterson Drive and Ronans Retreat
Lyndbrook AWA
12. Lyndhurst Primary School
70 Brookwater Parade (access via Roland Drive)
Lyndhurst AWA
13. Noble Park Primary School
65 Buckley Street
Noble Park AWA
14. Springvale Rise Primary School - Springvale Campus
355a Springvale Road
Springvale AWA
15. Wallarano Primary School
38-64 Wallarano Drive
Noble Park AWA

FWA - Fully wheelchair accessible
AWA - Assisted wheelchair access
NWA - Not wheelchair accessible

Voting centres are open
8.00 am to 6.00 pm today

Arabic
السبت 27 أبريل 2013 الساعة 8:00 صباحاً إلى الساعة 6:00 مساءً في مراكز اقتراع المنطقة الانتخابية ليندهورست.

Chinese
投票日期：2013年4月27日（星期六）上午8:00至下午6:00。投票地點：林德赫斯特選區內各投票站。

Croatian
Glasovanje je obavezno za osobe koje su na listi birača na dan 12. ožujka 2013. Ako vam je potreban pomoćnik, molimo nazivati broj 9548 0223.

Greek
Η υποχρέωση των υπηκόπων είναι να ψηφίσουν στις εκλογές της Εξέτασης, 27 Απριλίου 2013. Για να έχετε βοήθεια, παρακαλούμε τηλεφωνήστε στο 9548 0223.

Indonesian
Anda diwajibkan memberikan suara dalam pemilihan "hasil tetap mutlak" ini pada hari Sabtu, 27 April 2013. Untuk bantuan dan informasi, silakan hubungi 9548 0223.

Italian
Votare è obbligatorio alle elezioni del 27 Aprile 2013. Per avere l'assistenza di un interprete, chiamare il numero 9548 0223.

Macedonian
Гласањето е обавезно за сите граѓани на 27 Април 2013. За помоќ или интерпретатор јавете на број 9548 0223.

Malayalam
എല്ലാവരും തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിന് പങ്കെടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിനുള്ള തീയതി 2013 ഏപ്രിൽ 27 നു വോട്ടെടുപ്പ് നടത്തേണ്ടതാണ്. തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിനുള്ള സഹായം ആവശ്യപ്പെടാൻ 9548 0223 നമ്പർ വിളിക്കുക.

Slovak
Každý volič musí byť opísaný v zozname voličov na 12. marca 2013. Pre potrebu pomoci, prosím zavolať číslo 9548 0223.

Spanish
Es obligatorio votar en las elecciones del sábado 27 de abril del 2013. Para obtener la ayuda de un intérprete, llama al 9548 0223.

Vietnamese
Việc đi bầu là bắt buộc đối với mọi công dân có tên trong danh sách bầu cử vào Thứ Bảy ngày 27 tháng Tư năm 2013. Để xin được dịch vụ hỗ trợ, hãy liên hệ số 9548 0223.

English
Voting is compulsory for this electorate election on Saturday, 27 April 2013. For interpreter assistance, telephone 9548 0223.

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Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Advertising: Results and return of the writ

LYNDHURST DISTRICT State by-election Declaration of result

The candidate elected in the Lyndhurst District by-election held on Saturday, 27 April 2013 was:

Martin Pakula
Australian Labor Party

I have returned the writ to the Hon Ken Smith, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The writ was issued on Tuesday, 5 March 2013 for the election of one member to the Legislative Assembly to represent Lyndhurst District.

Detailed results are available at vec.vic.gov.au

Warwick Gately AM
Victorian Electoral Commission

APPENDIX E: ANALYSIS OF INFORMAL VOTES

Informal votes at the by-election, comprised 9.45% of total votes. The informal voting rate was slightly higher than the 9.34% at the July 2012 Melbourne by-election, though lower than the informal votes at the 2012 Niddrie and 2011 Broadmeadows by-elections. Informality increased significantly from 2,715 (7.07%) at the 2010 State election. This report examines the incidence of the informal vote at the by-election. The report also describes the types of mistakes that informal voters made and how they varied from those at the 2010 State election.

The increase in the informal vote came from a high base. At the 2010 State election, Lyndhurst District had the ninth-highest informal voting rate in the State. There is a strong positive correlation between the proportion of residents not fluent in English and informal voting. At the 2011 census, more than 18% of residents were not proficient in English, with residents coming from a wide range of non-English speaking backgrounds, including Indian, Chinese and Cambodian. Research by the VEC has revealed that many non-English speaking electors are positively disposed to voting but are unaware of how to vote correctly.

The number of candidates can affect the informal voting rate. A large number of candidates can increase the informal vote, through voters making numbering errors. There was little difference between the number of candidates at the State election (seven) and the by-election (eight), but numbering errors probably contributed to the informal votes at both elections.

The range of candidates also has an effect. In District by-elections over the past decade where both major parties were standing, the informal vote was a median of 1.33 percentage points lower than at the preceding State election. In contrast, where a major party was not standing, the informal vote was 3.14 percentage points higher than at the State election. It appears that some party supporters prefer to vote informally than to vote for another party or candidate. At the Lyndhurst by-election, the absence of a Liberal candidate probably contributed to the increase in the informal vote. Some seventeen informal ballot papers explicitly complained about the lack of a Liberal candidate.

Informal voting rates were more than 10% at voting centres across most of the District. They were slightly lower in the south-eastern corner at Lynbrook and Lyndhurst, which may be related to the socioeconomic character of these suburbs. The informal voting rate increased at most voting centres between the State election and the by-election, with little apparent pattern in the variations between voting centres.

In the survey of informal ballot papers, the VEC used the same categories as in its analyses of informal ballot papers since the 2006 State election. These categories are described in Figure 1, and Figure 2 shows the results of the survey.

Category	Description
Blank	The bulk of these ballot papers were presumably deliberately informal, though they might include ballot papers lodged by people who had difficulties with the whole voting process.
Numbers – 1 only	
Numbers – insufficient	Ballot papers including insufficient numbers to constitute a formal vote.
Numbers – apparently deliberate	Ballot papers including number sequences such as '1's, or '0', or '1', '10', '300', which indicate an intention to cast an informal vote.
Numbers – other	
Ticks/crosses – preference	Ballot papers indicating a clear preference for a candidate through a single tick or cross.
Ticks/crosses – apparently deliberate	Ballot papers with ticks or crosses in every square, indicating an intention to reject all the candidates.
Ticks/crosses – other	
Writing – apparently deliberate	Ballot papers with writing or drawings indicating opposition to all the candidates, including those with a cross over the whole paper.
Writing – other	Vague scrawls not indicating any intention.
Possibly formal	Ballot papers which are arguably formal.

Figure 1: Categories used by the VEC in analysis of ballot papers

Category	Number
Blank	745 (22.7%)
Numbers – 1 only	199 (6.1%)
Numbers – insufficient	242 (7.4%)
Numbers – apparently deliberate	272 (8.3%)
Numbers – other	484 (14.7%)
Ticks/crosses – preference	236 (7.2%)
Ticks/crosses – apparently deliberate	241 (7.3%)
Ticks/crosses – other	54 (1.6%)
Writing – apparently deliberate	776 (23.6%)
Writing – other	19 (0.6%)
Possibly formal	14 (0.4%)
TOTAL	3,282

Figure 2: Results of survey of informal ballot papers cast at Lyndhurst by-election 2013 – detailed categories

The largest category of informal votes was ‘writing – deliberate’, with 776 votes, or 23.6% of the total. This category was dramatically larger than at the 2010 State election (12.8% in the Districts surveyed), and comparable to that at the March 2012 Niddrie by-election (24.9%).

Blank ballot papers were the second largest category of informal votes, with 22.7% of the total. This was similar to the State election (25.1%) and the Niddrie by-election (22.1%).

The third largest category was ‘numbers – other’, with 14.7% of the total. In this category, voters appear to have attempted to vote correctly, but skipped or duplicated numbers. The number was substantial, but lower than at the State election (18.3%) and much lower than at the 2012 Melbourne by-election (33.6%).

As at other by-elections, the proportion of informal ballot papers with a single 1 (6.1%) was much lower than at the State election (20.9%). Without the confusion of the Upper House ballot paper (on which most voters do vote ‘1’), very few Lyndhurst by-election voters made this mistake.

Figure 3 shows the results of the survey in broader categories.

Category	Number
Blank	745 (22.7%)
Numbers	1,197 (36.5%)
Ticks/crosses	531 (16.2%)
Writing	795 (24.2%)
Possibly formal	14 (0.4%)
TOTAL	3,282

Figure 3: Results of survey of informal votes cast at Lyndhurst by-election 2012 – broad categories

There were fewer numbering errors and more in the writing category than at the State election. The results were similar to those at the Niddrie by-election. The proportion of ticks and crosses was higher than at all recent elections, possibly reflecting the ways in which many residents would have voted in their former homelands.

Figure 4 groups the various categories of deliberately informal votes and shows the result when the blank ballot papers are added to the marked ballot papers that were deliberately informal. It also groups the ballot papers that indicated a clear preference (either through the number “1” or a single tick or cross).

Category	Number
Apparently deliberate	1,289 (39.3%)
Apparently deliberate including blank	2,034 (62.0%)
Indicating preference	677 (20.6%)

Figure 4: Deliberately informal votes in grouped categories

The proportion of apparently deliberate informal votes was much higher than at the State election and at the 2012 Melbourne by-election, and similar to that at the Niddrie by-election. There is an apparent trend to a substantial protest vote at by-elections in normally safe seats where a major party does not put forward a candidate.

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