

Victorian Electoral Commission
**Report on the Melbourne District
by-election held on 21 July 2012**

October 2012



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 Melbourne District by-election held on 21 July 2012.

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



Liz Williams
Acting Electoral Commissioner
October 2012

Victorian Electoral Commission

Level 11
530 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Tel: +61 3 8620 1100
Fax: +61 3 9629 8632
Email: info@vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A by-election for the Melbourne State District was triggered by the resignation, on 7 May 2012, of the sitting member, the Honourable Bronwyn Pike, MP.

The election-ready positioning of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), its planning, processes and systems and the strong capabilities of VEC staff meant that the VEC was able to conduct this by-election at short notice without critical disruption to the preparations for the 2012 council elections in October. Solid partnerships with our efficient and reliable suppliers and contractors also feature as a key component of the successful conduct of the Melbourne District by-election on 21 July 2012.

Compulsory voting follow-up has commenced, so costs have not been finalised at the time of printing. It is anticipated that the by-election will be conducted well within budget.

A communication campaign that included a householder letter and a range of newspaper advertisements helped 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.

Sixteen candidates nominated for the by-election. The Australian Labor Party, the Democratic Labor Party, the Australian Greens, the Australian Christians, Family First and the Australian Sex Party each endorsed a candidate. Ten independent candidates also nominated. Jennifer Kanis, the candidate for the Australian Labor Party — Victorian Branch, who polled 33.38% of the first preference votes, was elected at the 14th exclusion.

The turnout rate of 68.62% for the by-election was lower than the turnout rate of 86.93% for Melbourne District in the 2010 State election. The turnout rate for the Melbourne by-election was lower than the average turnout of 81.35% for the six most recent State by-elections (excluding Melbourne). Detailed information about the participation rate is included as Appendix E.

The informality rate of 9.34%, with 16 candidates, was an increase on the informality rate of 3.69% for the Melbourne District with seven candidates at the 2010 State election. The informality rate was also higher than the average informality rate of 7.75% for the six most recent State by-elections (excluding Melbourne). An analysis of the informal votes has been conducted and is included as Appendix F.

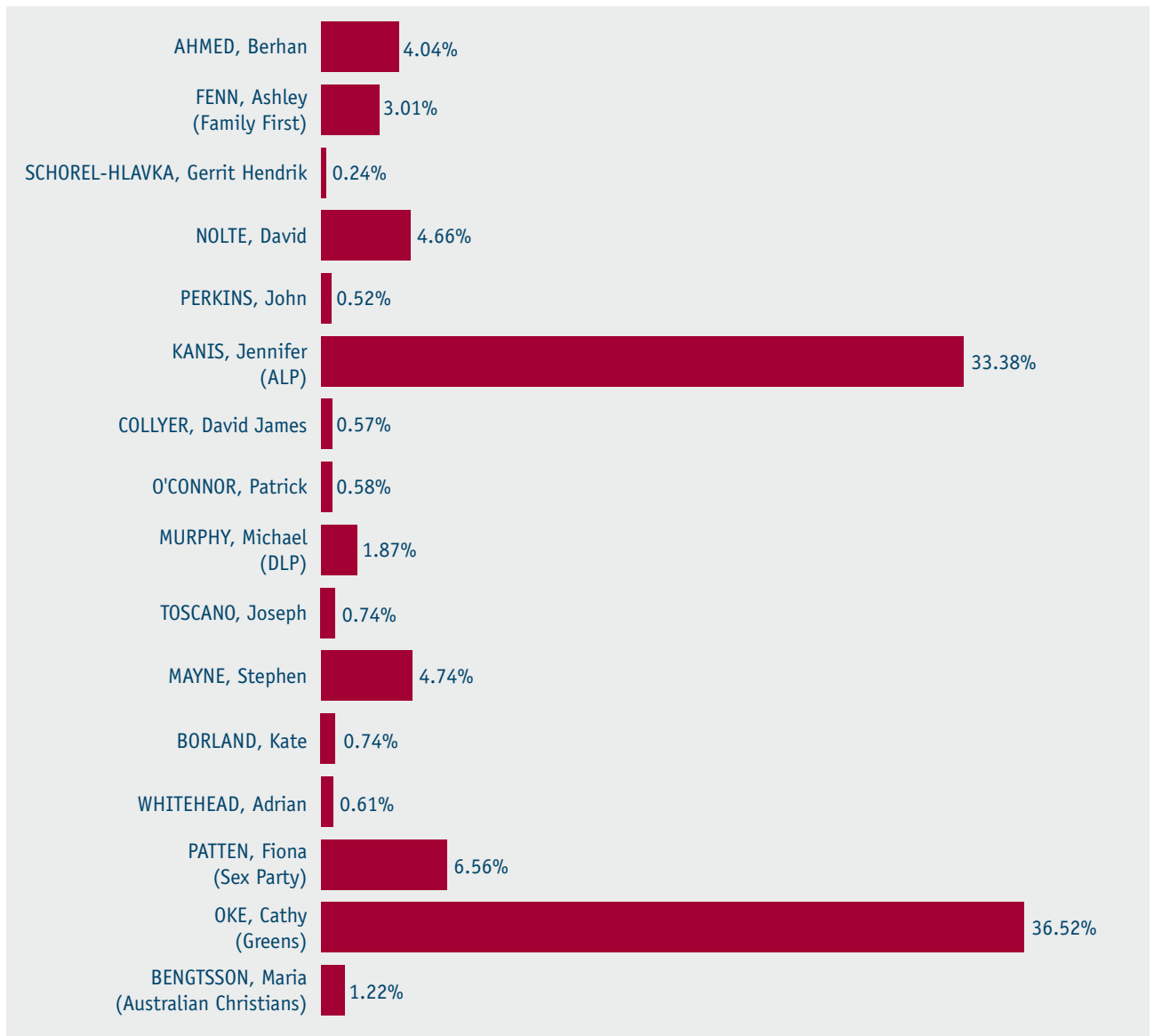
I take this opportunity to thank all VEC staff, contractors and suppliers, Election Manager, Chris Browne and Assistant Election Managers, Rose McVicar and Ted Marks for their contributions to the very successful conduct of the Melbourne District by-election.



Liz Williams
Acting Electoral Commissioner

1. SNAPSHOT

First preference votes (% of first preference votes)



Two candidate preferred vote (ALP and Greens)

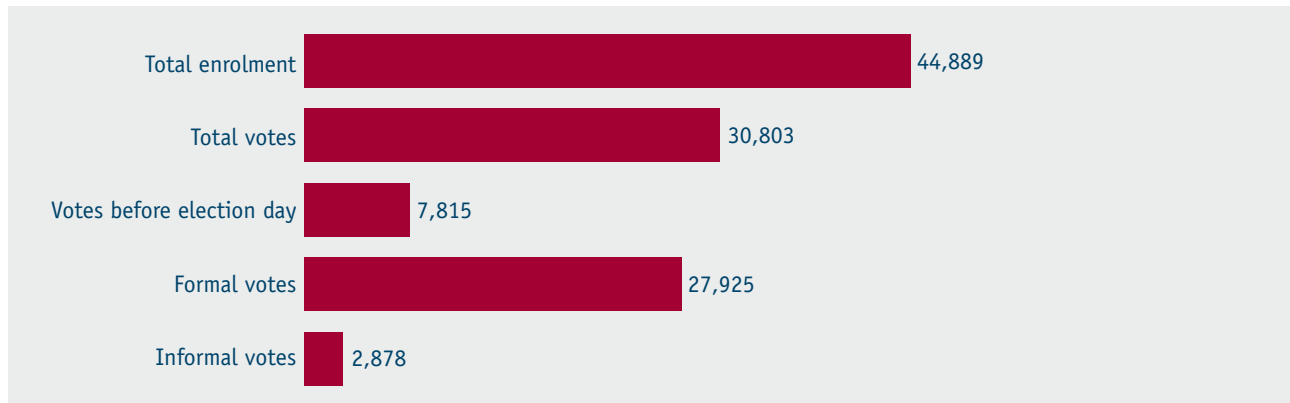


Results after distribution of preferences

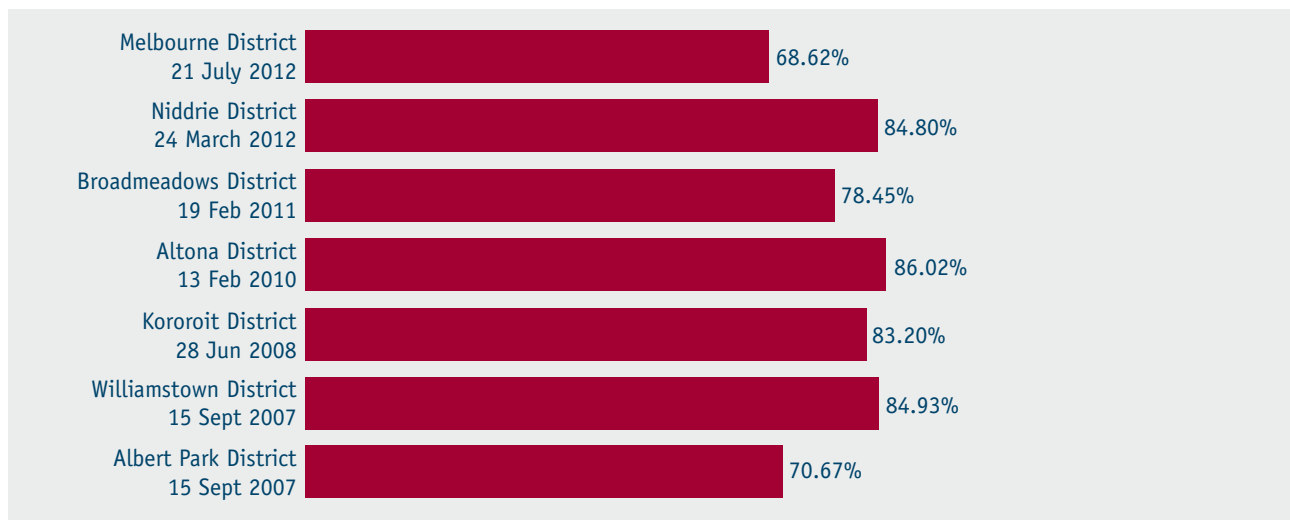


Participation

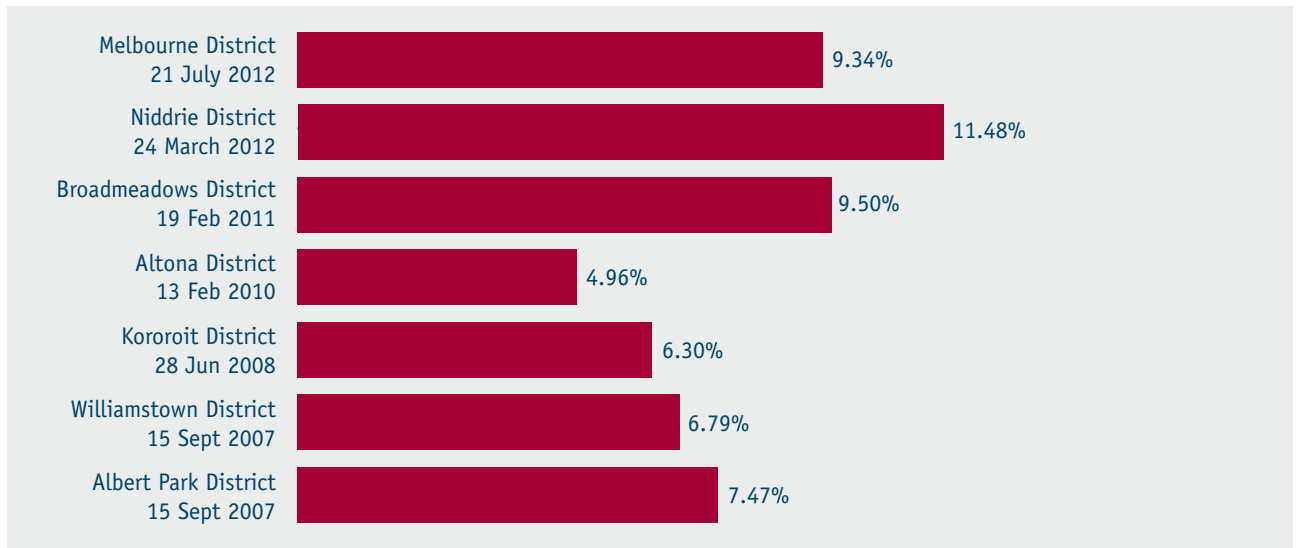
Participation at Melbourne District by-election 2012



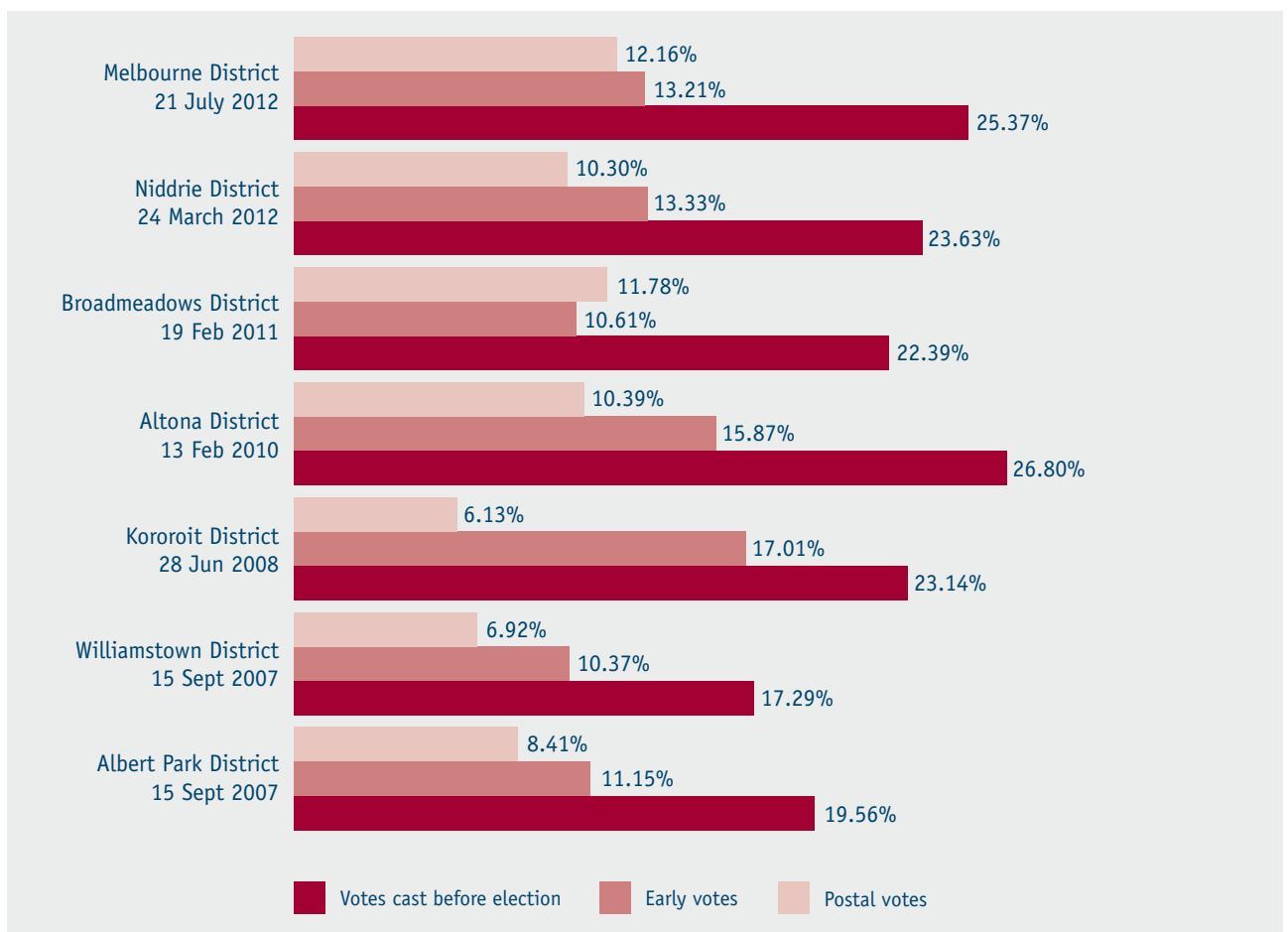
Voter turnout at Victorian State by-elections 2007–12 (% of total enrolment)



Informal votes at Victorian State by-elections 2007–12 (% of total votes)



Pre-poll votes at Victorian State by-elections 2007–12 (% of total votes)



2. BACKGROUND

The writ

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly issued a writ for the by-election for Melbourne District on Monday, 28 May 2012. The writ set out the timetable for the by-election.

Election timetable

| | |
|--|---|
| Issue of the writ | Monday, 28 May 2012 |
| Nominations opened | Tuesday, 29 May 2012 |
| Close of roll | 8.00 pm, Monday 4 June 2012 |
| Close of nominations (party candidates) | 12 noon, Thursday 21 June 2012 |
| Close of nominations (independent candidates) | 12 noon, Friday 22 June 2012 |
| Early voting commenced | 4.00 pm, Friday 22 June 2012 |
| Registration of how-to-vote cards opened | 8.30 am, Monday 25 June 2012 |
| Registration of how-to-vote cards closed | 12 noon, Friday 13 July 2012 |
| Postal vote applications closed | 6.00 pm, Thursday 19 July 2012 |
| Early voting closed | 6.00 pm, Friday 20 July 2012 |
| Election day voting | 8.00 am – 6.00 pm Saturday, 21 July 2012 |
| Results | From 6.00 pm, Saturday 21 July 2012 |
| Return of the writ | On or before 10 August 2012 (returned 1 August 2012) |

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 VCAT for its support during the election.

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 during the election.

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 its support.

The former member

The Honourable Bronwyn Pike, MP, represented the District of Melbourne from 1999 to 2012 and was Minister of Education in Victoria in the Brumby Government. Ms Pike was appointed the Minister for Housing and Aged Care and Minister Assisting the Health Minister in the Bracks Government. In 2002, Ms Pike was appointed as Minister for Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on Community Building.

The electorate

Melbourne District is a central metropolitan electorate covering an area of approximately 31 square kilometres. It includes the suburbs or localities of Carlton, Carlton North, East Melbourne, Flemington, Kensington, Newmarket, North Melbourne, Parkville, West Melbourne and parts of Ascot Vale.

The District encompasses densely populated residential areas and the city's business precinct. Its features include Royal Park, the Zoological Gardens, the Fitzroy Gardens, Princes Park, the MCG, Parliament House, the Museum of Victoria, the University of Melbourne, the Queen Victoria Market, the Royal Agricultural Society Showground and the Flemington Racecourse.

Map of the District



Historical pattern of the District

1955 – present: Australian Labor Party

Past results for Melbourne District

2010 State election results

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| Elected Member | PIKE, Bronwyn | |
| Total Enrolment | 43,916 | |
| Formal Votes | 36,767 | |
| Informal Votes | 1,409 | 3.69% |
| Total Votes | 38,176 | 86.93% |

| Candidate | First preference votes | % |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| PIKE, Bronwyn (ALP) | 13,116 | 35.67% |
| LAZZARI, Peter | 231 | 0.63% |
| FENSOM, Maxine | 142 | 0.39% |
| MARTIN, Luke (Liberal) | 10,281 | 27.96% |
| WALTERS, Brian (Greens) | 11,735 | 31.92% |
| KILLEN, Roy (Sex Party) | 1,061 | 2.89% |
| PERKINS, John L. | 201 | 0.55% |

2006 State election results

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| Elected Member | PIKE, Bronwyn | |
| Total Enrolment | 38,853 | |
| Formal Votes | 31,750 | |
| Informal Votes | 1,214 | 3.68% |
| Total Votes | 32,964 | 84.84% |

| Candidate | First preference votes | % |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| COLLINS, Isabell (People Power) | 526 | 1.66% |
| DI NATALE, Richard (Greens) | 8,704 | 27.41% |
| PIKE, Bronwyn (ALP) | 14,149 | 44.56% |
| GEBBING, Rebecca (Family First) | 496 | 1.56% |
| PAPAS, Steve (Liberal) | 7,009 | 22.08% |
| CHAMBERLIN, Kevin F | 866 | 2.73% |

3. BUDGET

The VEC estimated a marginal cost of \$400,000 for the conduct of the Melbourne District by-election. This includes expenses and obligations related to salaries of temporary election personnel, advertising, and associated infrastructure including office accommodation, transport and office requisites. An additional \$50,000 was allowed for electoral entitlements.

4. ELECTION PERSONNEL

Election Manager

Ms Chris Browne was appointed the Election Manager for Melbourne 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 Rose McVicar and Mr Ted Marks 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
- netbooks for use in voting centres.

5. SERVICES TO ELECTORS

Recruitment and training

A total of 159 staff (including the Election Manager and two Assistant Election Managers) were appointed for the by-election.

Of these, 113 were appointed as election officials at voting centres on election day. A further 43 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.

Enrolment

The day after the issue of the writ for Melbourne District, the VEC sent written notification of the by-election to every household in the electorate. The letter advised that, since a by-election would be held soon, eligible people who were not on the electoral roll should enrol, and those who had recently moved should update their enrolment details. This 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 election office.

The VEC election office remained open until 8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June 2012. The VEC also made arrangements with the AEC Melbourne office to remain open until 8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June 2012.

Between the issue of the writ and the close of rolls, 1,568 electors enrolled or updated their enrolment details. At the close of roll, there were 44,889 electors enrolled, 973 more than at the close of roll for the 2010 State election.

Services for electors with special needs

In line with the VEC's Disability Action Plan, assistance services, including braille ballot papers upon request, were provided to electors with special needs at the Melbourne District by-election.

Every early voting centre and election day voting centre was rated, using an audit tool, according to its wheelchair accessibility. The audit tool complies with relevant Australian Standards and addresses building access as well as the availability of accessible parking and the approach to the building.

Both early voting centres were rated as 'Assisted Wheelchair Accessible'.

Of the 14 election day voting centres in Melbourne District, two were 'Fully Wheelchair Accessible' and 12 were rated 'Assisted Wheelchair Accessible'.

The rating of all voting centres was listed in press advertisements, on the EasyVote letter sent to electors and on the VEC's website. The lack of fully accessible voting centres for lease continues to be of concern to the VEC.

Services for electors from non-English speaking backgrounds

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census, 10.21% of the usually resident population of Melbourne District were reported as speaking English not well or not at all. English was stated as the only language spoken at home by 51.5% of persons usually resident in Melbourne District.

According to the 2011 Census, two or more languages are spoken in 45.6% of households within Melbourne District, which is nearly double the rate for Victoria as a whole. The most common languages other than English spoken at home were: Mandarin, Cantonese, Indonesian, Vietnamese and Italian.

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 Melbourne District.

These numbers were also incorporated on the enrolment and voting letters sent to householders/electors in Melbourne.

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 21 languages (including English) placed inside each voting screen. Across 12 of the 14 election day voting centres, 31 election staff spoke a language other than English and were on hand to assist with interpreting where required.

Arrangements for voting before election day

Early voting

Electors unable to vote on election day had the opportunity to vote early at the early voting centres located at the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) Melbourne office and the VEC's Melbourne early voting centre in Melbourne District.

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

- AEC Melbourne Early Voting Centre (AWA)
Level 1, Urban Workshop
50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
- Melbourne Early Voting Centre (AWA)
Level 38, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne

Early voting centres were open between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday from Monday, 25 June 2012. Extended opening hours were available on Saturday, 14 July 2012 (9.00 am to 2.00 pm) and Thursday, 19 July 2012 (8.30 am to 8.00 pm).

A total of 4,070 electors (13.21% of total enrolment) voted early, in person, for the by-election, compared with 6,453 (16.90% of total enrolment) for the District at the 2010 State election. Reasons for early voting provided by electors included having to work, or planning to be interstate or overseas on election day.

Mobile voting

A total of 129 electors took advantage of mobile voting, with a mobile voting team visiting 12 venues in the week prior to election day.

Voting interstate and overseas

Early voting services were provided at seven interstate locations and at one overseas location.

Some 41 early votes were cast outside Victoria for the Melbourne District by-election. This compares with 342 for the District for the 2010 State election.

Postal voting

Electors unable to attend a voting centre on election day could 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 and the Greens.

Four postal votes were issued outside the State for the Melbourne District by-election. This compares with 105 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 may be received up until 6.00 pm on the Thursday 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 3,993 postal vote applications plus 514 votes cast by General Postal Voters were processed, and 3,745 postal votes were counted for the by-election.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of total votes that were cast before election day.



Figure 1: Votes cast before election day, Melbourne District by-election 2012 (% of total votes)

6. SERVICES TO REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

Voting on election day

Election day voting centres

Electors could vote at any of the 14 voting centres open across the District on election day.

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 239 provisional votes (28.8% of the 830 provisional votes received) were admitted to the count. Most of the provisional votes received could not be included as the voters were enrolled outside the Melbourne District. These included people who lived in the City of Melbourne but not in the Melbourne District, and people who considered they were residents of Greater Melbourne but were not residents of the Melbourne District. Also, a number of non citizens applied but their application could not be accepted.

Candidate support

Sixteen candidates nominated for the Melbourne District by-election compared with seven candidates for the District in the 2010 State election.

Candidate nomination forms 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 handbook explaining aspects of electoral law directly relating to candidates. Candidates also received a VEC Candidates' Kit containing:

- 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.

After nominating and upon request, 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*.

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 35 how-to-vote cards were registered for the Melbourne District by-election (see Figure 2). As required by legislation, all registered how-to-vote cards were published on the VEC website.

| Party/Candidate/Stakeholder | # HTVCs |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Schorel-Hlavka, Gerrit | 11 |
| Toscano, Giuseppe | 1 |
| Family First Victoria Inc. | 1 |
| Australian Labor Party | 3 |
| Perkins, John | 2 |
| Borland, Kate | 2 |
| O'Connor, Patrick | 1 |
| Whitehead, Adrian | 1 |
| Collyer, David | 1 |
| Australian Christians | 1 |
| Democratic Labor Party | 1 |
| Nolte, David | 2 |
| Ahmed, Berhan | 2 |
| Australian Sex Party | 1 |
| The Australian Greens | 2 |
| Mayne, Stephen | 1 |
| Nolte, David | 2 |

Figure 2: How-to-vote cards registered at the Melbourne District by-election 2012

By-election briefings for parties and candidates

Registered political parties were invited to attend individual briefing sessions between 1 and 6 June 2012. Five parties participated.

Prospective independent candidates were invited to attend a briefing sessions conducted on 4 June 2012 at the VEC.

7. COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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

Direct mail

The VEC distributed 39,136 enrolment information letters to households in Melbourne District from 29 May 2012.

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 44,375 *EasyVote letters* were lodged for distribution on 8 June 2012. 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 election office operated a dedicated telephone enquiry service from 29 June 2012.

Calls to the office peaked each time a mailout 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.

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.

Enquiries relating to the by-election were received from 13 journalists, with most contacting the VEC a number of times throughout the election period. A large number of enquiries was 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.

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 118 emails via its *info* email address.

Social media

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

To encourage enrolment, advertisements that targeted 18-35 year old Melbournians were run on Facebook. This activity was bolstered by frequent posts by the VEC Communication team on the VEC Facebook 'wall'. These included enrolment, nominations and voting.

The Melbourne District by-election was the first electoral event that the VEC promoted using Twitter which proved to be an ideal platform to communicate directly with electors and the media. Throughout the event the VEC's Twitter following grew from approximately 60 users after the beginning of the election period to nearly 600 on election night as results were posted.

Melbourne District by-election posts were predominantly grouped around the '#MelbVotes' tag. There were 4,722 posts during the election period using that tag, including posts from activists, political parties, candidates, commentators, electors and the VEC. In addition, journalists who were covering the by-election were visible contributors to the '#MelbVotes' feed which resulted in fewer media enquiries through other channels.

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 28 May 2012 through to election day, when usage spiked with more than 25,000 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.

8. ELECTRONIC ROLL MARK-OFF

The by-election for the State District of Melbourne was the second time that an entire VEC election has been conducted with all electors being marked off on an electronic roll (eRoll).

Early voting was conducted using netbooks. On election day, around 75 netbooks were deployed across the 14 voting centres and by close of voting 22,665 votes had been issued.

During the early voting period, 22 June – 20 July, over 3,952 early votes were taken including 129 votes at 12 mobile early voting venues in the District, 2,140 at the AEC Melbourne Office, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne and 1,683 at the Early Voting Centre at 530 Collins St, Melbourne.

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 eRoll system and Next-G network performed well during the early voting period and on election day.

On election day, roll-marking progress was reported in real time and immediately available to users, the Election Manager and to the VEC support team.

The recording of a timestamp with each roll mark enabled a comprehensive track of voting behaviour during an election day, as well as an immediate indication of individual user and voting centre activity.

Online reporting of votes issued was instantly available to voting centre managers, and ballot paper reconciliation was completed speedily following the close of voting.

The use of netbooks for roll mark-off also eliminates the risk of a person voting more than once in their own name.

Other than the entry of final postal votes and provisional votes taken on the day, roll mark-off was essentially complete by 6.00 pm on election day. With the need for scanning of paper rolls removed, the compulsory voting follow-up commenced as soon as the by-election was finished.

See Appendix G for details of number of electors marked off by hour and by voting centre.

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.

Postal and early votes were counted in the election office on election night in the same count order as in the voting centres. The result of the 2CP count between the ALP and the Greens is included as Appendix C.

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

Jennifer Kanis (Australian Labor Party – Victorian Branch) was declared the successful candidate on 26 July 2012.

The writ was returned on 1 August 2012.

11. PARTICIPATION

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

1. Enrolment: the degree to which those who are eligible enrol to vote
2. Turn-out: the degree to which those who are enrolled 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, 1,568 electors enrolled or updated their enrolment details. At the close of roll, there were 44,889 electors enrolled, 973 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 Melbourne District by-election was 68.62%. This participation rate was the second lowest for any Victorian Legislative Assembly election since the introduction of compulsory voting in 1926.

The lowest recorded turn-out rate is 66.82% at the Melbourne District by-election of 17 December 1977.

See Appendix E for an analysis of voter turnout for the 2012 Melbourne District by-election.

Informal voting

The informality rate of 9.34% was an increase on the informality rate of 3.69% at the 2010 State election for Melbourne District.

The informality rate for Melbourne District is higher than the average informality rate of 7.75% for the six most recent State by-elections (excluding Melbourne).

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

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 3 August 2012.

Of the sixteen candidates, six were refunded their deposit, and ten candidates forfeited the deposit with the funds being forwarded to consolidated revenue.

13. ELECTORAL ENTITLEMENTS

An amount of \$1.5573 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 three party candidates and three independent candidates. At the time of this report, only the Australian Labor Party had been paid the full entitlement.

| Registered Political Parties | Entitlement |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Australian Labor Party | \$14,515.59 |
| Australian Sex Party | \$2,852.97 |
| The Australian Greens | \$15,879.79 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$33,248.35 |
| | |
| Independent Candidates | Entitlement |
| AHMED, Berhan | \$1,755.08 |
| NOLTE, David | \$2,027.60 |
| MAYNE, Stephen | \$2,063.42 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$5,846.10 |

14. ENFORCEMENT OF COMPULSORY VOTING

Postal vote declarations received too late for the count, and elector information reports completed at voting centres on election day — 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 3 August 2012 with 11,866 Apparent Failure to Vote notices mailed out. On 13 September 2012, 7,885 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.

It is anticipated that enforcement of compulsory voting provisions will be completed by February 2013.

Further details of enforcement of compulsory voting provisions at the Melbourne District by-election will be included in the VEC’s Annual Report.

15. COMPLAINTS

The VEC registered eleven formal complaints about the Melbourne District by-election.

The complaints related to a variety of matters including unauthorised electoral matter, the content of (non-VEC) social media tweets, how-to-vote-card registration, voting times and the level of communication about the by-election.

None of the matters alleged was considered to constitute a breach the *Electoral Act 2002*, and all were dealt with by the Election Manager with the support of the VEC.

APPENDIX A: DETAILED VOTING STATISTICS

Electorate Results (Voting Centres)

Melbourne district (recheck)

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Total enrolment | 44,889 | |
| Formal votes | 27,925 | |
| Informal votes | 2,878 | (9.34% of total votes) |
| Total votes | 30,803 | (68.62% of electors enrolled) |

NUMBER OF FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES POLLED BY EACH CANDIDATE

| | AHMED, Berhan | FENN, Ashley (FAMILY FIRST) | SCHOREL- HLAVKA, Gerrit Hendrik | NOLTE, David | PERKINS, John | KANIS, Jennifer (AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY) | COLLYER, David James |
|---|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Carlton | 167 | 41 | 5 | 81 | 10 | 547 | 10 |
| Carlton Central | 28 | 27 | 1 | 191 | 6 | 631 | 8 |
| Carlton North | 27 | 17 | 1 | 142 | 0 | 466 | 4 |
| Docklands | 27 | 39 | 0 | 80 | 4 | 186 | 3 |
| East Melbourne | 36 | 46 | 5 | 141 | 2 | 454 | 12 |
| Flemington | 213 | 43 | 3 | 49 | 7 | 802 | 10 |
| Hotham Hill | 129 | 17 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 369 | 2 |
| Kensington | 73 | 61 | 6 | 76 | 13 | 879 | 7 |
| Melbourne | 24 | 34 | 3 | 32 | 3 | 282 | 9 |
| Melbourne Central | 27 | 53 | 1 | 22 | 6 | 296 | 6 |
| North Melbourne | 60 | 47 | 3 | 122 | 13 | 706 | 14 |
| North Melbourne East | 34 | 36 | 3 | 36 | 9 | 316 | 4 |
| Parkville | 41 | 30 | 4 | 37 | 3 | 320 | 7 |
| South Kensington | 33 | 42 | 1 | 35 | 3 | 395 | 8 |
| Total Ordinary Votes | 919 | 533 | 36 | 1050 | 82 | 6649 | 104 |
| Marked as Voted | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Postal Vote | 112 | 166 | 19 | 121 | 30 | 1402 | 31 |
| Provisional | 16 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 57 | 0 |
| Early Vote | 80 | 132 | 11 | 124 | 32 | 1209 | 25 |
| Total Declaration Votes | 208 | 308 | 30 | 252 | 63 | 2672 | 56 |
| TOTAL ALL VOTE TYPES | 1127 | 841 | 66 | 1302 | 145 | 9321 | 160 |
| Percentage of Formal Vote Polled by Candidate | 4.04% | 3.01% | 0.24% | 4.66% | 0.52% | 33.38% | 0.57% |

| O'CONNOR, Patrick | MURPHY, Michael (D.L.P. - DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY) | TOSCANO, Joseph | MAYNE, Stephen | BORLAND, Kate | WHITEHEAD, Adrian | PATTEN, Fiona (SEX PARTY) | OKE, Cathy (AUSTRALIAN GREENS) | BENGTSSON, Maria (AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS) | Informal Votes | Total Votes Polled |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 9 | 46 | 20 | 62 | 16 | 19 | 103 | 609 | 12 | 260 | 2017 |
| 7 | 23 | 8 | 82 | 12 | 14 | 108 | 838 | 11 | 195 | 2190 |
| 2 | 12 | 6 | 77 | 18 | 9 | 94 | 550 | 10 | 143 | 1578 |
| 5 | 22 | 8 | 42 | 4 | 9 | 101 | 242 | 10 | 90 | 872 |
| 6 | 34 | 12 | 174 | 5 | 5 | 149 | 427 | 12 | 210 | 1730 |
| 8 | 41 | 16 | 55 | 47 | 9 | 113 | 727 | 16 | 297 | 2456 |
| 2 | 19 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 43 | 218 | 7 | 139 | 971 |
| 18 | 28 | 10 | 83 | 12 | 7 | 139 | 973 | 30 | 279 | 2694 |
| 3 | 25 | 5 | 56 | 4 | 4 | 109 | 410 | 12 | 91 | 1106 |
| 5 | 25 | 10 | 30 | 5 | 8 | 117 | 488 | 17 | 107 | 1223 |
| 15 | 25 | 8 | 52 | 11 | 10 | 138 | 1003 | 21 | 199 | 2447 |
| 4 | 19 | 18 | 47 | 2 | 8 | 75 | 454 | 10 | 113 | 1188 |
| 2 | 16 | 6 | 45 | 3 | 6 | 67 | 363 | 21 | 73 | 1044 |
| 7 | 19 | 6 | 29 | 4 | 7 | 84 | 435 | 13 | 104 | 1225 |
| 93 | 354 | 137 | 844 | 144 | 117 | 1440 | 7737 | 202 | 2300 | 22741 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| 41 | 84 | 49 | 224 | 32 | 34 | 148 | 909 | 72 | 271 | 3745 |
| 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 97 | 4 | 21 | 239 |
| 26 | 81 | 21 | 250 | 30 | 17 | 232 | 1451 | 64 | 285 | 4070 |
| 69 | 167 | 71 | 481 | 63 | 52 | 392 | 2460 | 140 | 578 | 8062 |
| 162 | 521 | 208 | 1325 | 207 | 169 | 1832 | 10197 | 342 | 2878 | 30803 |
| 0.58% | 1.87% | 0.74% | 4.74% | 0.74% | 0.61% | 6.56% | 36.52% | 1.22% | | |

APPENDIX B: DISTRIBUTION OF PREFERENCE VOTES

| | |
|--|--------|
| Total valid first preference votes polled for all candidates | 27,925 |
| Number of votes required to constitute an absolute majority on first count | 13,963 |
| Number of informal votes | 2,878 |

| Candidates Names (in ballot-paper order) | AHMED, Berhan | FENN, Ashley | SCHOREL- HLAVKA, Gerrit Hendrik | NOLTE, David | PERKINS, John | KANIS, Jennifer |
|--|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Total first preference votes recorded for each candidate | 1127 | 841 | 66 | 1302 | 145 | 9321 |
| Transfer of 66 ballot-papers of SCHOREL-HLAVKA, Gerrit Hendrik (1st excluded candidate) | 9 | 10 | | 18 | 4 | 5 |
| Progressive Total | 1136 | 851 | | 1320 | 149 | 9326 |
| Transfer of 149 ballot-papers of PERKINS, John (2nd excluded candidate) | 4 | 6 | | 36 | | 14 |
| Progressive Total | 1140 | 857 | | 1356 | | 9340 |
| Transfer of 173 ballot-papers of WHITEHEAD, Adrian (3rd excluded candidate) | 7 | 6 | | 4 | | 4 |
| Progressive Total | 1147 | 863 | | 1360 | | 9344 |
| Transfer of 182 ballot-papers of O'CONNOR, Patrick (4th excluded candidate) | 10 | 11 | | 14 | | 13 |
| Progressive Total | 1157 | 874 | | 1374 | | 9357 |
| Transfer of 210 ballot-papers of COLLYER, David James (5th excluded candidate) | 46 | 10 | | 31 | | 32 |
| Progressive Total | 1203 | 884 | | 1405 | | 9389 |
| Transfer of 254 ballot-papers of TOSCANO, Joseph (6th excluded candidate) | 23 | 15 | | 15 | | 18 |
| Progressive Total | 1226 | 899 | | 1420 | | 9407 |
| Transfer of 313 ballot-papers of BORLAND, Kate (7th excluded candidate) | 63 | 14 | | 26 | | 27 |
| Progressive Total | 1289 | 913 | | 1446 | | 9434 |
| Transfer of 360 ballot-papers of BENGSSON, Maria (8th excluded candidate) | 15 | 156 | | 17 | | 31 |
| Progressive Total | 1304 | 1069 | | 1463 | | 9465 |
| Transfer of 618 ballot-papers of MURPHY, Michael (9th excluded candidate) | 35 | 244 | | 38 | | 143 |
| Progressive Total | 1339 | 1313 | | 1501 | | 9608 |
| Transfer of 1313 ballot-papers of FENN, Ashley (10th excluded candidate) | 496 | | | 268 | | 226 |
| Progressive Total | 1835 | | | 1769 | | 9834 |
| Transfer of 1730 ballot-papers of MAYNE, Stephen (11th excluded candidate) | 564 | | | 346 | | 265 |
| Progressive Total | 2399 | | | 2115 | | 10099 |
| Transfer of 2115 ballot-papers of NOLTE, David (12th excluded candidate) | 1191 | | | | | 446 |
| Progressive Total | 3590 | | | | | 10545 |
| Transfer of 2643 ballot-papers of PATTEN, Fiona (13th excluded candidate) | 853 | | | | | 892 |
| Progressive Total | 4443 | | | | | 11437 |
| Transfer of 4443 ballot-papers of AHMED, Berhan (14th excluded candidate) | | | | | | 2947 |
| FINAL TOTAL | | | | | | 14384 |
| Name of ELECTED candidate: KANIS, Jennifer | | | | | | |

| COLLYER, David James | O'CONNOR, Patrick | MURPHY, Michael | TOSCANO, Joseph | MAYNE, Stephen | BORLAND, Kate | WHITEHEAD, Adrian | PATTEN, Fiona | OKE, Cathy | BENGTSSON, Maria | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------|
| 160 | 162 | 521 | 208 | 1325 | 207 | 169 | 1832 | 10197 | 342 | 27925 |
| 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 66 |
| 162 | 166 | 523 | 210 | 1327 | 209 | 169 | 1833 | 10202 | 342 | 27925 |
| 22 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 13 | 2 | 149 |
| 184 | 175 | 525 | 214 | 1338 | 211 | 173 | 1853 | 10215 | 344 | 27925 |
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 15 | 37 | | 10 | 70 | 2 | 173 |
| 188 | 182 | 526 | 220 | 1353 | 248 | | 1863 | 10285 | 346 | 27925 |
| 22 | | 21 | 16 | 18 | 11 | | 10 | 31 | 5 | 182 |
| 210 | | 547 | 236 | 1371 | 259 | | 1873 | 10316 | 351 | 27925 |
| | | 18 | 18 | 15 | 8 | | 20 | 12 | 0 | 210 |
| | | 565 | 254 | 1386 | 267 | | 1893 | 10328 | 351 | 27925 |
| | | 9 | | 63 | 46 | | 21 | 40 | 4 | 254 |
| | | 574 | | 1449 | 313 | | 1914 | 10368 | 355 | 27925 |
| | | 4 | | 86 | | | 22 | 66 | 5 | 313 |
| | | 578 | | 1535 | | | 1936 | 10434 | 360 | 27925 |
| | | 40 | | 22 | | | 18 | 61 | | 360 |
| | | 618 | | 1557 | | | 1954 | 10495 | | 27925 |
| | | | | 69 | | | 32 | 57 | | 618 |
| | | | | 1626 | | | 1986 | 10552 | | 27925 |
| | | | | 104 | | | 101 | 118 | | 1313 |
| | | | | 1730 | | | 2087 | 10670 | | 27925 |
| | | | | | | | 244 | 311 | | 1730 |
| | | | | | | | 2331 | 10981 | | 27925 |
| | | | | | | | 312 | 166 | | 2115 |
| | | | | | | | 2643 | 11147 | | 27925 |
| | | | | | | | | 898 | | 2643 |
| | | | | | | | | 12045 | | 27925 |
| | | | | | | | | 1496 | | 4443 |
| | | | | | | | | 13541 | | 27925 |

APPENDIX C: TWO CANDIDATE PREFERRED RESULTS (ALP AND GREENS)

| Voting Centre | KANIS, Jennifer (ALP) | OKE, Cathy (GREENS) | Mis-sorts | Informal Votes | Total votes polled |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Carlton | 964 | 828 | 7 | 219 | 2018 |
| Carlton Central | 958 | 1062 | 2 | 168 | 2190 |
| Carlton North | 725 | 708 | 0 | 142 | 1575 |
| Docklands | 414 | 372 | 1 | 84 | 871 |
| East Melbourne | 866 | 683 | 3 | 175 | 1727 |
| Flemington | 1219 | 963 | 1 | 273 | 2456 |
| Hotham Hill | 556 | 282 | 1 | 132 | 971 |
| Kensington | 1195 | 1233 | 1 | 263 | 2692 |
| Melbourne | 453 | 561 | 0 | 90 | 1104 |
| Melbourne Central | 504 | 623 | 3 | 93 | 1223 |
| North Melbourne | 1051 | 1226 | 2 | 167 | 2446 |
| North Melbourne East | 492 | 588 | 1 | 107 | 1188 |
| Parkville | 515 | 477 | 1 | 51 | 1044 |
| South Kensington | 560 | 558 | 0 | 107 | 1225 |
| Ordinary Votes | 10472 | 10164 | 23 | 2071 | 22730 |
| Marked as Voted | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Postal Vote | 2032 | 1445 | 0 | 268 | 3745 |
| Provisional | 97 | 120 | 1 | 21 | 239 |
| Early Vote | 1866 | 1966 | 0 | 248 | 4080 |
| Total | 14471 | 13699 | 24 | 2608 | 30802 |
| Percentage Of Formal Vote | 51.37% | 48.63% | | | |

APPENDIX D: COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

Communication Schedule

| | | |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|
| Release 1 | Issue of the writ | Monday, 28 May 2012 |
| Advertisement | Issue of the writ | Tuesday, 29 May 2012 |
| Direct mail | Letter to households | Tuesday, 29 May 2012 |
| Release 2 | Call for nominations | Tuesday, 29 May 2012 |
| Advertisement | Enrolment reminder | Saturday, 2 June 2012 |
| Release 3 | Rolls closed (statistics) | Tuesday, 5 June 2012 |
| Direct mail | EasyVote letter | Friday, 8 June 2012 |
| Release 4 | 16 candidates to contest | Friday, 22 June 2012 |
| Advertisement | Early voting | Monday, 25 June 2012 |
| Release 5 | Voting options for Melbourne District electors | Friday, 29 June 2012 |
| Advertisement | How to vote | Monday, 16 July 2012 |
| Advisory | Photo opportunity/Access Results | Wednesday, 18 July 2012 |
| Advertisement | Voting on election day | Saturday, 21 July 2012 |
| Advertisement | Results and return of the writ | Friday, 10 August 2012 |

Letter to households advising of election



Important information: **Melbourne District by-election**

To the householder

Enrol to vote for the Melbourne District by-election

A by-election is being held on Saturday, 21 July 2012 due to the resignation of the Member for Melbourne District.

If you have moved since you last enrolled, or have changed your name or postal address, you need to update your enrolment details by 8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June.

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

Updating or enrolling online

To update your address, just visit vec.vic.gov.au and use the online application to complete an electronic enrolment update 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 drivers 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 using one of the options below.

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.

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, Level 1, Urban Workshop, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
- Victorian Electoral Commission, Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne

You must ensure that you are enrolled and that your details are correct by 8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June.

Do you have to enrol?

Enrolling and keeping your enrolment details up to date is 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.

How do you check if you are on the roll?

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

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, 26 June.

Liz Williams
Acting Electoral Commissioner

Information: 1300 551 081 or vec.vic.gov.au

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
• ገጽ ፳፻፲ 9209 0190 Amharic • 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
• Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • ڊاربي 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικό 9209 0103 Greek • Bahasa Indonesia 9209 0112 Indonesian
• Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • Malti 9209 0112 Maltese
• فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomaali 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 (Page 1)



Your EasyVote Letter:

Melbourne District by-election

Dear voter

Important information: Election day is Saturday, 21 July 2012.

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

Election day is Saturday, 21 July 2012. It is **compulsory** for you to vote in this by-election as you were on the roll for Melbourne District at the close of rolls on Monday, 4 June 2012.

Voting centre locations are listed on the back of this letter. Alternative options are also detailed should you be unable to get to a voting centre on election day.

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 21 يوليو/تموز 2012. للمساعدة بواسطة مترجم شفهي، اتصل هاتفياً على الرقم 9209 0100.

Cantonese 請務必在2012年7月21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 izborno mjesto u subotu, 21. srpnja 2012. Ako vam je potreban tumač, nazovite 9209 0102.

Greek Η ψηφοφορία είναι υποχρεωτική σ' αυτή την εκλογική προσέλευση το Σάββατο, 21 Ιουλίου 2012. Για τη βοήθεια διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνήστε το 9209 0103.

Indonesian Anda diwajibkan memberikan suara dalam pemilihan 'hadir tatap muka' ini pada hari Sabtu, 21 Juli 2012. Untuk bantuan juru bahasa, silakan hubungi 9209 0112.

Italian Votare è obbligatorio alle elezioni del 21 luglio 2012. Per avere l'assistenza di un interprete, chiamare al numero 9209 0104.

Macedonian Гласањето е задолжително за во сабота, 21. Јули 2012. За помош со преведувач јавете се на 9209 0105.

Mandarin 請務必在2012年7月21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 0106。

Spanish Es obligatorio ir votar en las elecciones del sábado 21 de julio de 2012. Para obtener la ayuda de un intérprete, llame al 9209 0109.

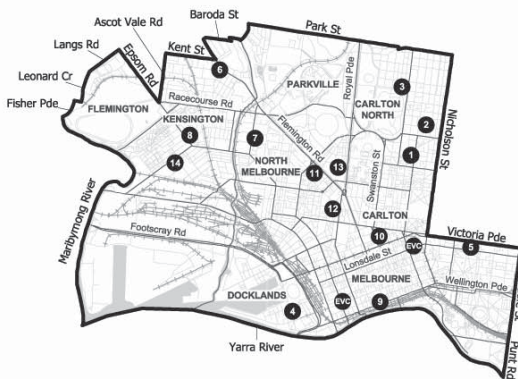
Vietnamese Việc bỏ phiếu là bắt buộc đối với cuộc bầu cử trực tiếp này vào Thứ Bảy ngày 21 tháng Bảy năm 2012. Để có thông dịch viên giúp đỡ, hãy điện thoại số 9209 0111.

English Voting is compulsory for this attendance election on Saturday, 21 July 2012. For interpreter assistance, telephone 9209 0112.

EasyVote letter (Page 2)

Where can I vote?

You can vote at any one of the following voting centres within Melbourne District from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on Saturday, 21 July 2012.



Voting centre locations

1. Carlton Primary School
corner Palmerston and
Drummond Streets
Carlton **AWA**
2. Carlton North Primary
School
Lee Street
Carlton North **AWA**
3. St. Michael's Anglican
Church Hall
14 Mclwraith Street
Princes Hill **FWA**
4. The Hub @ Docklands
80 Harbour Esplanade
Docklands **AWA**
5. Dallas Brooks Centre
corner Albert and Eades
Streets
East Melbourne **FWA**
6. Mt Alexander College
167-175 Mount Alexander
Road
Flemington **AWA**
7. North Melbourne
Community Centre
Buncle Street
North Melbourne **AWA**
8. Kensington Primary School
McCracken Street
Kensington **AWA**
9. Victoria University - Flinders
Campus Convention Centre
L12/300 Flinders Street
Melbourne **AWA**
10. RMIT (Canteen)
Building 8 Bowen Street
Melbourne **AWA**
11. North Melbourne
Primary School
210 Errol Street
North Melbourne **AWA**
12. St. Joseph's Flexible
Learning Centre
385 Queensberry Street
North Melbourne **AWA**
13. University High School -
Performance Centre
Story Street
Parkville **AWA**
14. Kensington Community
Recreation Centre
corner Kensington Road
and Altona Street
Kensington **AWA**

FWA = Fully wheelchair accessible
AWA = Assisted wheelchair access

What if I can't vote on election day?

If you can't get to a voting centre on election day, Saturday, 21 July, 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 Monday, 25 June to Friday, 20 July with extended hours on Saturday, 14 July (9.00 am to 2.00 pm) and Thursday, 19 July (8.30 am to 8.00 pm).

EVC Melbourne Early Voting Centre, Level 38, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne (**AWA**); and

EVC Australian Electoral Commission Early Voting Centre, Urban Workshop, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne (**AWA**).

If you will be outside Victoria on election day, you can vote by post or in person at an early voting centre. Additional to the above early voting centres, voting is also available at Victoria House, London, UK, and at various interstate locations. Visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 551 575 (+ 61 3 8620 1208 from outside Australia) 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 Melbourne District, online at vec.vic.gov.au or by calling the election office on 1 300 551 081.

The VEC must receive your postal vote application by 6.00 pm on Thursday, 19 July. 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 Melbourne District at 8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June 2012. You may be fined if you do not vote.

Information: 1300 551 081 or vec.vic.gov.au

Notice of election: Issue of writ/enrolment/nominations

State by-election: Melbourne District

I have received the writ from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Ken Smith MP, issued on Monday, 28 May 2012, for the election of one member of the Legislative Assembly for Melbourne District.

The writ specifies the following dates for the by-election:

Close of roll: 8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June 2012
Close of nominations: 12 noon on Friday, 22 June 2012
Election day: Saturday, 21 July 2012
Return of the writ: On or before Friday, 10 August 2012

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

Make sure you're enrolled to vote!

You are already enrolled for the Melbourne 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.

If you have recently moved or changed your name, you must update your enrolment immediately.

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 call 1300 805 478.

Updating or enrolling 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.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• **AMPEP** 9209 0190 Amharic • **العربية** 9209 0100 Arabic • **Босански** 9209 0191 Bosnian • **ខ្មែរ** 9209 0192 Cambodian • **粵語** 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
 • **Hrvatski** 9209 0102 Croatian • **كرواتي** 9209 0193 Dari • **Dinka** 9209 0119 Dinka • **Ελληνικά** 9209 0103 Greek • **Bahasa Indonesia** 9209 0112 Indonesian
 • **Italiano** 9209 0104 Italian • **한국어** 9209 0194 Korean • **Македонски** 9209 0105 Macedonian • **普通话** 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • **Malti** 9209 0112 Maltese
 • **فارسی** 9209 0195 Persian • **Русский** 9209 0196 Russian • **Српски** 9209 0107 Serbian • **Soomaalí** 9209 0108 Somali • **Español** 9209 0109 Spanish
 • **Türkçe** 9209 0110 Turkish • **Việt-ngữ** 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Enrolling is compulsory

Enrolling and keeping your enrolment details current is compulsory.

When do I vote?

Election day is Saturday, 21 July. Details of where to vote and how to vote early will be available shortly and mailed to enrolled electors within Melbourne 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 Thursday, 21 June 2012. Late nominations cannot be accepted.

Candidates not endorsed by a registered political party must nominate with the Election Manager, Chris Browne, at Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne. The Election Manager will supply a Candidate Kit, which includes a nomination form. Nominations close at 12 noon on Friday, 22 June 2012.

Late nominations cannot be accepted.

The VEC will conduct an information session for intending non-party candidates at 4.00 pm on Monday, 4 June 2012 at the VEC.

For more information on nominating, please contact the Election Manager, Chris Browne, on 1300 551 081.

How-to-vote cards

If a person or organisation intends to distribute how-to-vote cards on election day, Saturday, 21 July 2012, 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 Monday, 25 June 2012 to 12 noon on Friday, 13 July 2012.

Organisations or individuals other than registered political parties can submit how-to-vote cards to the Election Manager, Chris Browne, 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 Friday, 13 July 2012 cannot be accepted.



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Victorian Electoral Commission VEC

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

Enrolment/nominations reminder

State by-election: *Melbourne District*

If you live in Melbourne District, have changed address, turned 18 or if you're just not on the roll, you must enrol or update your enrolment by *8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June*.

To vote at the Melbourne District by-election you need to be correctly enrolled.

Enrol now if you're an Australian citizen aged 18 or over and you are not enrolled. Update your enrolment if you've changed your principal place of residence or other details.

Enrolling is compulsory

Electoral law requires that you be enrolled at your principal place of residence in order to vote.

If you have never enrolled before or have let your details lapse, you will not be penalised if you enrol now.

Updating or enrolling online

To update your address, just visit vec.vic.gov.au and use the online application to complete an electronic enrolment update 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 551 081.

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.

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

- Level 1, Urban Workshop
50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Victorian Electoral Commission

- Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne

All offices are open until 8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June.

How do I stand as a candidate?

Independent candidates must nominate with the election manager, Ms Chris Browne, at Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Registered political party candidates must nominate directly with the VEC at Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Nominations close at 12 noon on Thursday, 21 June for party endorsed candidates, and at 12 noon on Friday, 22 June for independent candidates.

Late nominations cannot be accepted.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• አማርኛ 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 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 • Bahasa Indonesia 9209 0112 Indonesian
• Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • Malti 9209 0112 Maltese
• فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomaali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish
• Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

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Victorian Electoral Commission 

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

Early voting

State by-election: Melbourne District

Voting before election day

Election day for the Melbourne District by-election is Saturday, 21 July. If you can't get to a voting centre on election day, there are two ways you can vote in advance.

Vote in person: You can vote between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday, at either:

- Melbourne Early Voting Centre
Level 38, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne
- Australian Electoral Commission Early Voting Centre
Level 1, Urban Workshop, 50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne

Both venues are wheelchair accessible with assistance.

Extended opening hours are also available:

- Saturday, 14 July, 9.00 am to 2.00 pm
- Thursday, 19 July, 8.30 am to 8.00 pm

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

To have your ballot papers sent to you, mail your correctly completed application immediately to: VEC, Reply Paid 76032, Melbourne, Victoria, 8060, or fax it to 9620 3489.

Post your completed ballot papers promptly. Ballot papers posted after 6.00 pm on Saturday, 21 July 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 above.

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 Melbourne District by-election office on 1300 551 081.

Who can vote

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

If you are an Australian citizen, over the age of 18, and you live in Melbourne District but have never enrolled, you can enrol and vote on the spot. Simply bring a driver licence or learner permit, a council rates notice or an electricity bill in your name for your home address when you visit a voting centre.

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

Remember, voting is compulsory

For more information please visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 551 081

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Arabic | المواطنون الأستراليون يجب أن يصوتوا في هذه الانتخابات. يوم الانتخابات 21 يوليو/تموز 2012. إذا لم يكن مقيداً للتصويت في يوم الانتخابات، اتصل بنا على الرقم 9209 0100 لمعرفة خيارات التصويت الأخرى. |
| Cantonese | 澳洲公民必須在本次選舉中投票。選舉日為2012年7月21日。如果難以在選舉日投票，請致電9209 0101，與我們聯絡，瞭解其他投票選擇。 |
| Croatian | Australski državljani moraju glasovati na ovim izborima. Izbori se održavaju 21. srpnja 2012. Ako ne možete glasovati na dan izbora, nazovite nas na 9209 0102 i saznat ćete koje su druge mogućnosti glasovanja. |
| Greek | Οι Αυστραλοί πολίτες πρέπει να ψηφίσουν σ' αυτές τις εκλογές. Η ημέρα των εκλογών είναι 21 Ιουλίου 2012. Αν δεν μπορείτε να ψηφίσετε την ημέρα των εκλογών καλέστε μας για άλλες εκλογικές επιλογές στο 9209 0103. |
| Indonesian | Warganegara Australia diharuskan memberikan suara dalam pemilihan ini. Hari pemilihan 21 Juli 2012. Apabila anda berhalangan untuk memberikan suara pada hari pemilihan, hubungi kami tentang opsi pemungutan suara lain pada 9209 0112. |
| Italian | I cittadini australiani sono tenuti a votare a queste elezioni. Il giorno delle elezioni è il 21 luglio 2012. Se non potete votare il giorno delle elezioni chiamateci al numero 9209 0104 per conoscere altre opzioni di voto. |
| Macedonian | Жителите на Австралија мораат да гласаат на овие избори. Изборите се на 21. Јули 2012. Ако не можете да гласате на денот јавете ни се на 9209 0105 за други начини на гласање. |
| Mandarin | 澳大利亞公民必須在本次選舉中投票。選舉日為2012年7月21日。如果難以在選舉日投票，請致電9209 0106，與我們聯繫，瞭解其他投票選擇。 |
| Spanish | Los ciudadanos australianos deben votar en estas elecciones. El día de las elecciones es el 21 de julio de 2012. Si no puede ir a votar el día de las elecciones, llámenos al 9209 0109 para saber otras opciones. |
| Vietnamese | Công dân Úc phải bỏ phiếu trong cuộc bầu cử này. Ngày bầu cử là ngày 21 tháng Bảy năm 2012. Nếu quý vị không thể bỏ phiếu vào ngày bầu cử, hãy gọi cho chúng tôi ở số 9209 0111 để có các lựa chọn khác về việc bỏ phiếu. |
| English | Australian citizens must vote in this election. Election day is 21 July 2012. If you cannot vote on election day call us for other voting options on 9209 0112. |

Every vote will shape Victoria

Victorian Electoral Commission 

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

How to vote correctly

State by-election: Melbourne District Voting on election day

Election day for the Melbourne District by-election is Saturday, 21 July.

Who can vote

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

If you are an Australian citizen and you live in Melbourne District but have never enrolled, you can enrol and vote on the spot. Simply bring a driver licence or learner permit, a council rates notice or an electricity invoice (in your name) for your home address when you visit a voting centre.

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

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.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory if you were on the electoral roll for Melbourne District at the close of rolls (8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June 2012).

You may be fined if you do not vote.

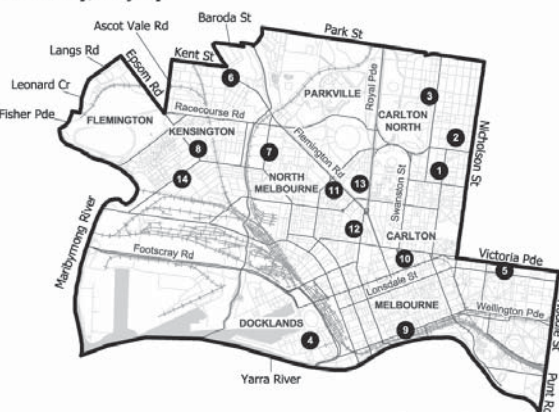
Candidates

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

- AHMED, Berhan
- FENN, Ashley
Family First
- SCHOREL-HLAVKA, Gerrit Hendrik
- NOLTE, David
- PERKINS, John
- KANIS, Jennifer
Australian Labor Party
- COLLYER, David James
- O'CONNOR, Patrick
- MURPHY, Michael
D.L.P. - Democratic Labor Party
- TOSCANO, Joseph
- MAYNE, Stephen
- BORLAND, Kate
- WHITEHEAD, Adrian
- PATTEN, Fiona
Sex Party
- OKE, Cathy
Australian Greens
- BENGTSSON, Maria
Australian Christians

**For more
information please visit
vec.vic.gov.au
or call 1300 551 081**

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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Carlton Primary School corner Palmerston and Drummond Streets Carlton AWA | 6. Mt Alexander College 167-175 Mount Alexander Road Flemington AWA | 11. North Melbourne Primary School 210 Errol Street North Melbourne AWA |
| 2. Carlton North Primary School Lee Street Carlton North AWA | 7. North Melbourne Community Centre Buncle Street North Melbourne AWA | 12. St. Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre 385 Queensberry Street North Melbourne AWA |
| 3. St. Michael's Anglican Church Hall 14 McIlwraith Street Princes Hill FWA | 8. Kensington Primary School McCracken Street Kensington AWA | 13. University High School - Performance Centre Story Street Parkville AWA |
| 4. The Hub @ Docklands 80 Harbour Esplanade Docklands AWA | 9. Victoria University - City Flinders Campus LT2/300 Flinders Street Melbourne AWA | 14. Kensington Community Recreation Centre corner Kensington Road and Altona Street Kensington AWA |
| 5. Dallas Brooks Centre corner Albert and Eades Streets East Melbourne FWA | 10. RMIT (Canteen) Building 8, Bowen Street Melbourne AWA | |

FWA - Full wheelchair access
AWA - Assisted wheelchair access

- Arabic** التصويت إلزامي في هذه الانتخابات في يوم السبت 21 يوليو/تموز 2012. للمساعدة بواسطة مترجم شفهي، اتصل هاتفياً على الرقم 0100 9209.
- Cantonese** 請務必在2012年7月21日星期六選舉日親身投票。投票是法律規定。如需要傳譯員協助，請致電9209 0101。
- Croatian** Glasovanje je obvezno dolaskom na izborno mjesto u subotu, 21. srpnja 2012. Ako vam je potreban tumač, nazovite 9209 0102.
- Greek** Η υποχρέωση είναι υποχρεωτική σ' αυτή την εκλογική προεκλογική το Σάββατο, 21 Ιουλίου 2012. Για τη βοήθεια διαφώνηστε το 9209 0103.
- Indonesian** Anda diwajibkan memberikan suara dalam pemilihan 'hadiri tatap muka' ini pada hari Sabtu, 21 Juli 2012. Untuk bantuan juru bahasa, silakan hubungi 9209 0112.
- Italian** Votare è obbligatorio alle elezioni del 21 luglio 2012. Per avere l'assistenza di un interprete, chiamate al numero 9209 0104.
- Macedonian** Гласањето е задолжително доаѓа на изборно место на субота, 21. Јули 2012. За помош со преваѓање јавете се на 9209 0105.
- Mandarin** 請務必在2012年7月21日星期六選舉日親身投票。投票是法律規定。如需要傳譯員協助，請電9209 0106。
- Spanish** Es obligatorio ir votar en las elecciones del sábado 21 de julio de 2012. 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 21 tháng Bảy năm 2012. Để có thông dịch viên giúp đỡ, hãy điện thoại số 9209 0111.
- English** Voting is compulsory for this attendance election on Saturday, 21 July 2012. For interpreter assistance, telephone 9209 0112.

Every vote will shape Victoria

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

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

Voting on election day

State by-election: Melbourne 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:

- AHMED, Berhan
- FENN, Ashley
Family First
- SCHOREL-HLAVKA, Gerrit Hendrik
- NOLTE, David
- PERKINS, John
- KANIS, Jennifer
Australian Labor Party
- COLLYER, David James
- O'CONNOR, Patrick
- MURPHY, Michael
D.L.P. - Democratic Labor Party
- TOSCANO, Joseph
- MAYNE, Stephen
- BORLAND, Kate
- WHITEHEAD, Adrian
- PATTEN, Fiona
Sex Party
- OKE, Cathy
Australian Greens
- BENGTSSON, Maria
Australian Christians

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.

Where to vote today

1. Carlton Primary School
corner Palmerston and Drummond Streets
Carlton **AWA**
2. Carlton North Primary School
Lee Street
Carlton North **AWA**
3. St. Michael's Anglican Church Hall
14 Mcllwraith Street
Princes Hill **FWA**
4. The Hub @ Docklands
80 Harbour Esplanade
Docklands **AWA**
5. Dallas Brooks Centre
corner Albert and Eades Streets
East Melbourne **FWA**
6. Mt Alexander College
167-175 Mount Alexander Road
Flemington **AWA**
7. North Melbourne Community Centre
Buncle Street
North Melbourne **AWA**
8. Kensington Primary School
McCracken Street
Kensington **AWA**
9. Victoria University -
City Flinders Campus
112/300 Flinders Street
Melbourne **AWA**
10. RMIT (Canteen)
Building 8, Bowen Street
Melbourne **AWA**
11. North Melbourne Primary School
210 Errol Street
North Melbourne **AWA**
12. St. Joseph's Flexible Learning
Centre
385 Queensberry Street
North Melbourne **AWA**
13. University High School -
Performance Centre
Story Street
Parkville **AWA**
14. Kensington Community
Recreation Centre
corner Kensington Road and Altona Street
Kensington **AWA**

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory if you were on the electoral roll for Melbourne District at the close of rolls (8.00 pm on Monday, 4 June 2012).

You may be fined if you do not vote.

For more information please visit
vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 551 081

 [facebook.com/electionsvic](https://www.facebook.com/electionsvic)

 [@electionsvic](https://twitter.com/electionsvic)



FWA - Full wheelchair access
AWA - Assisted wheelchair access

الصوت إجباري في هذه الانتخابات في يوم السبت 21 يوليو/تموز 2012 للمساعدة بواسطة مترجم شفهي، اتصل هاتفياً على الرقم 9209 0100.

Arabic 9209 0100

Chinese 請務必在2012年7月21日星期六選舉日投票。投票是法律規定。如有需要，請致電9209 0101。

Cantonese 9209 0100

Croatian Glasovanje je obavezno dolaskom na izborno mjesto u subotu, 21. srpnja 2012. Ako vam je potreban tumač, nazovite 9209 0102.

English Voting is compulsory for this attendance election on Saturday, 21 July 2012. For interpreter assistance, telephone 9209 0112.

French H s'agit d'une élection obligatoire. Si vous avez besoin d'un interprète, appelez le 9209 0103.

Greek 9209 0100

Indonesian Anda diwajibkan memberikan suara dalam pemilihan 'hadir tetap muka' ini pada hari Sabtu, 21 Juli 2012. Untuk bantuan juru bahasa, silakan hubungi 9209 0112.

Italian 9209 0100

Japanese 投票は法律規定です。通訳が必要な場合は、電話9209 0106。

Macedonian 9209 0100

Mandarin 請務必在2012年7月21日星期六選舉日投票。投票是法律規定。如有需要，請致電9209 0101。

Malay 9209 0100

Portuguese 9209 0100

Russian 9209 0100

Spanish 9209 0100

Tamil 9209 0100

Thai 9209 0100

Vietnamese 9209 0100

Other languages 9209 0100

Every vote will shape Victoria

Victorian Electoral Commission 

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

Return of the writ

MELBOURNE District
State by-election
Declaration of result
The candidate elected in the
Melbourne District by-election
held on Saturday, 21 July 2012
was:

Jennifer Kanis
Australian Labor Party

I have returned the writ to the Hon Ken Smith, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The writ was issued on Monday, 28 May 2012 for the election of one member to the Legislative Assembly to represent Melbourne District. Detailed results are now available at vec.vic.gov.au

Liz Williams
Victorian Electoral Commission

APPENDIX E: VOTER PARTICIPATION

The total vote at the by-election was 30,803 – 68.62% of the 44,889 enrolled electors. This participation rate was the second lowest for any Victorian Legislative Assembly election since the introduction of compulsory voting in 1926. (The lowest turn-out rate of all was 66.82% at the Melbourne District by-election of 17 December 1977, which took place a week after a Federal election.)

Commentators immediately after the by-election pointed to widespread public apathy and disillusionment and the absence of a Liberal candidate as reasons for the poor turn-out. In the VEC's view, possible explanations focus on three areas: the nature of the electorate, the nature of by-elections in general, and features of this particular by-election.

Detailed examination of the election statistics offers some clues. Melbourne District is very diverse, ranging from stable, affluent East Melbourne, to the mushrooming high-rise apartments in the city and Docklands, to the gentrifying old inner suburbs to the north and west of the city, to pockets of social disadvantage in the public housing towers in Carlton, North Melbourne, Flemington and Kensington. However, this diversity was not reflected in the numbers voting at the various voting centres, which were generally similar to the 2010 figures except in areas where 2010 voting centres had been abolished (Newmarket and North Melbourne Central) or a new voting centre created (South Kensington).

Overall, the number of ordinary votes was only 2.3% lower than at the State election. Votes at the 2010 Liberal strongholds of Docklands and East Melbourne declined by not much more than the average, casting some doubt on the argument that the absence of a Liberal candidate was responsible for the low turn-out. Declaration votes showed more variation, with postal votes increasing by 11.9% while there were 36.9% fewer early votes than at the State election. There was no absent voting at the by-election.

At the State election there were 4,495 absent votes for Melbourne – much higher than the average per district of 2,508. Population mobility may partly account for this high absent vote at the State election, with electors who had recently moved out of the district without updating their enrolment voting in their new neighbourhood on election day. Unable to cast an absent vote at the by-election, such electors may not have voted at all.

As the above indicates, the nature of the electorate contributed to the low voter turn-out. The population of the District of Melbourne is unusually young (the median age is 28 compared to Victoria's 37) and highly mobile. Young adults, who change address frequently, tend to be slow to update their enrolment. This means that the roll includes many electors who no longer live in the district; some of these cast absent votes at State elections, while others do not vote. This is the main reason why voter participation rates are consistently low in a group of inner suburban electorates.

Melbourne District had the lowest voter turn-out in the State at the 2006 and 2010 State elections, and has been among the lowest over at least the past 20 years. Thus low participation at the by-election was not surprising.

By-elections as such have lower participation rates than general elections. The median voter turn-out rate at Victorian State elections since 1992 is 93.2%. Over the same period, the median voter turnout rate for State district by-elections (separate from State elections) is 85.03%. By-elections generally have a lower profile than general elections and electors are less inclined to take an interest. This pattern appears to have strengthened over the past decade¹. As well, facilities for voters are not as widespread.

While many by-elections have a relatively low public profile, it would be difficult to make this case for the Melbourne by-election. The election period was unusually long at almost two months, and both the Australian Labor Party and the Greens conducted vigorous campaigns to win the seat. The parties flooded every address in the district with repeated direct mail. As well, the VEC sent an enrolment leaflet to every household and an EasyVote letter to every elector. There was extensive media coverage of the by-election.

Despite the high profile of the by-election, voter participation declined by an unprecedented 18.31 percentage points from the State election. The lack of a Liberal candidate must have contributed to this fall. At by-elections over the past decade the decrease in participation has been significantly greater where a major party has not contested the election (a median of 10.32 percentage points compared to 8.28 percentage points at by-elections where both major parties were standing).

At the 2010 State election 27.96% of the votes were cast for the Liberal candidate. Some of these Liberal supporters would have voted for other candidates at the by-election; some would have voted informal; but some would have refused to vote at all. As well, the absence of a Liberal candidate may have dissuaded other voters from participating. With no Government representative in the by-election, some voters may have felt it was more like shadow-boxing rather than a real contest that would make a difference.

¹ See Charles Richardson: "Byelection apathy: there's more to the Melbourne story", in *Crikey*, 25 July 2012.

APPENDIX F: ANALYSIS OF INFORMAL VOTES

There were 2,878 informal votes at the by-election, comprising 9.34% of total votes. The informal voting rate was not as high as the 11.48% at the March 2012 Niddrie by-election, nor the 9.5% rate at the 2011 Broadmeadows by-election. Even so, it was higher than at any other election this century. And the increase from the State election was extraordinary – from 3.69% (well under the State average), the informal voting rate almost tripled at the by-election. This report examines the increase in 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 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 were sixteen candidates at the by-election – a substantial increase on the seven candidates for Melbourne District at the State election, and the most candidates for a district since the Frankston East supplementary election of October 1999. Analysis of the 2005 and 2008 local government elections reveals that the informal vote increases in line with the number of candidates, particularly once the number of candidates is greater than ten².

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 Melbourne by-election, the absence of a Liberal candidate probably contributed to the increase in the informal vote. Some twenty informal ballot papers explicitly complained about the lack of a Liberal candidate – for instance: “INFORMAL – LIBERAL CANDIDATE REQUIRED – NO DEMOCRACY”.

Informal voting rates varied at voting centres within the district, ranging from 6.99% at Parkville to 14.32% at Hotham Hill. Informal voting was highest in areas with social disadvantage and residents who are not fluent in English (Hotham Hill, Kensington, Flemington and Carlton) and also in the normally Liberal-voting centres of East Melbourne and Docklands.

The informal voting rate increased at all voting centres between the State election and the by-election, with the greatest being a 9.3 percentage point increase at East Melbourne. The number of informal votes rose by more than 300 per cent at East Melbourne – another indication of Liberal voters refusing to vote for other candidates.

² See the VEC's *Report of local government electoral activity 2008-09, Part1, Report of the conduct of the 2008 local government elections*, pp. 41-42.

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 election³. These categories are described in Figure 1.

By far the largest category of informal votes was ‘numbers – other’, with 966 votes, or 33.6% of the total. These votes were informal due to a variety of numbering errors, such as including two 1s, or skipping or duplicating numbers. This category was dramatically larger than at the 2010 State election (9.5% in Melbourne) and at the March 2012 Niddrie by-election (16.9%).

Blank ballot papers were the second largest category of informal votes, with 18.7% of the total. There was a lower incidence of blank ballot papers than at the State election (23.6%) and at the Niddrie by-election (22.1%).

| 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

³ Victorian Electoral Commission: *Report to Parliament on the 2006 Victorian State election*, p. 91.

Just behind the previous category was 'Writing – deliberate', with 18% of the total. This proportion was higher than at the 2010 State election (12.9%) but considerably lower than at Niddrie (24.9%).

The fourth largest category was 'Numbers – insufficient', with 357 votes, or 12.4% of the total. These ballot papers had a clear first preference, but did not fill in enough squares for the vote to be counted as formal. This category was somewhat larger than at the State election (10.4%) and more than twice as large as at Niddrie (5.9%).

As at other by-elections, the proportion of informal ballot papers with a single 1 (5.5%) was much lower than at the State election (23.9%). Without the confusion of the Upper House ballot paper (on which most voters do vote '1'), very few Melbourne by-election voters made this mistake. Figure 2 shows the results of the survey.

| Category | Number | % |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|
| Blank | 539 | 18.7% |
| Numbers – 1 only | 159 | 5.5% |
| Numbers – insufficient | 357 | 12.4% |
| Numbers – deliberate | 148 | 5.1% |
| Numbers – other | 966 | 33.6% |
| Ticks/crosses – preference | 59 | 2.1% |
| Ticks-crosses – deliberate | 106 | 3.8% |
| Ticks/crosses – other | 23 | 0.8% |
| Writing – deliberate | 517 | 18.0% |
| Writing – other | 4 | 0.1% |
| Possibly formal | 0 | 0.0% |
| TOTAL | 2,878 | |

Figure 2: Results of survey of informal ballot papers cast at Melbourne by-election 2012 – detailed categories

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

| Category | Number | % |
|---------------|--------|-------|
| Blank | 539 | 18.7% |
| Numbers | 1,630 | 56.6% |
| Ticks/crosses | 188 | 6.5% |
| Writing | 521 | 18.1% |
| TOTAL | 2,878 | |

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

Numbering errors were by far the largest of these categories, with 56.6% of the total, increasing from the 51.1% of informal votes in this category at the State election. Ticks and crosses were comparatively insignificant, and had declined from the 10.4% in this category at the State election. At 18.1%, writing errors made up a greater proportion of the informal votes than the 14% at the State election.

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 | 771 | 26.8% |
| Apparently deliberate including blank | 1,310 | 45.5% |
| Indicating preference | 575 | 20.0% |

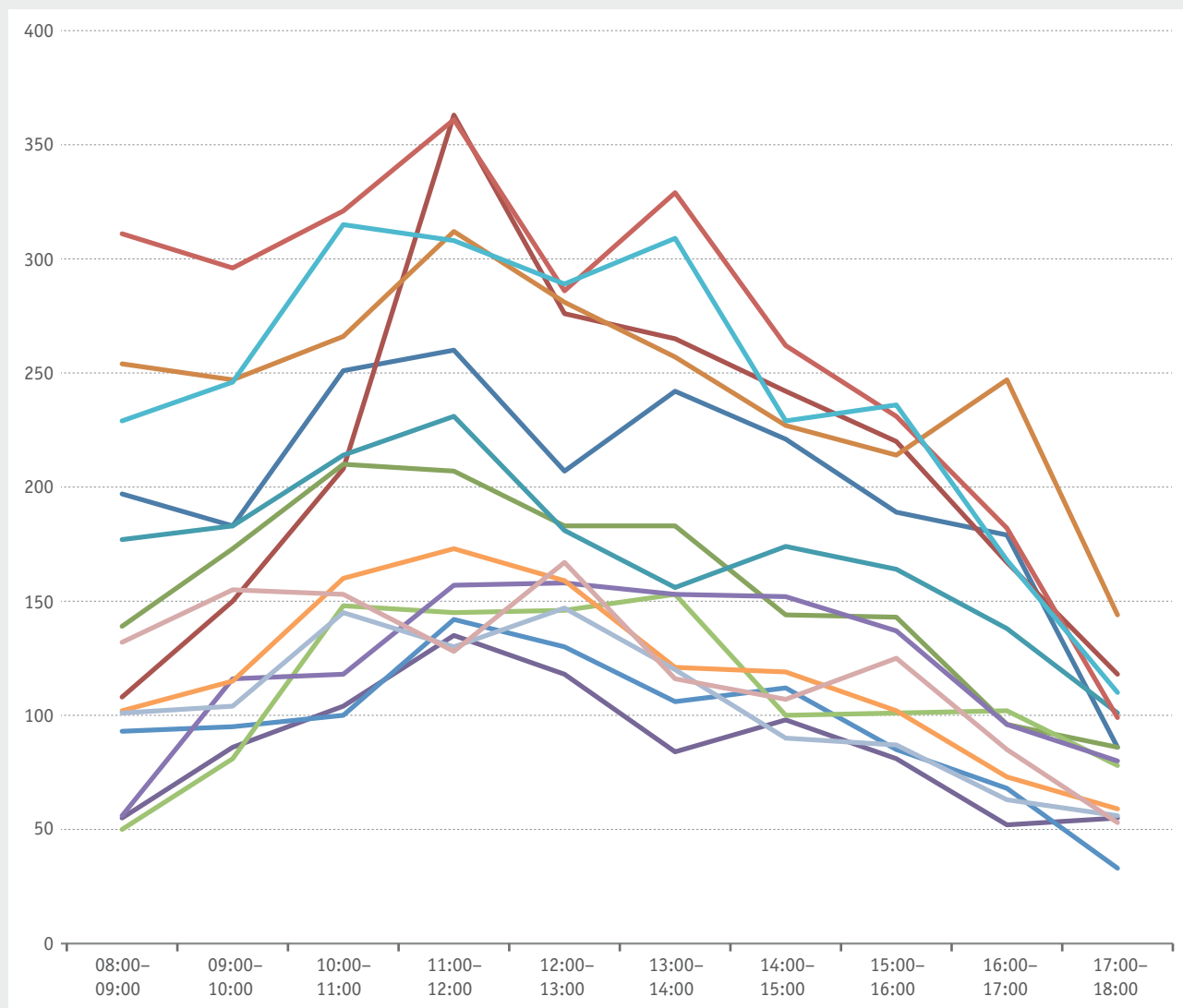
Figure 4: Deliberately informal votes in grouped categories

At 45.5%, the proportion of apparently deliberate informal votes was very similar to that in Melbourne District at the State election (46.7%). The bulk of these apparently deliberate votes were by voters who expressed their dissatisfaction in writing, some of whom may have been reacting to the absence of a Liberal candidate.

However, unlike most recent by-elections, Melbourne was distinguished by a high proportion of accidental informal votes. The voters in the ‘Numbers – other’ and ‘Numbers – insufficient’ categories (comprising 46% of the total) do not seem to have spoiled their ballots on purpose, but to have made an unsuccessful attempt at a formal vote. Faced with a list of 16 candidates, it is very easy to make a numbering mistake. The number of candidates appears to have been the primary cause of the high informal vote at the Melbourne by-election.

APPENDIX G: ELECTRONIC ROLL MARK-OFF STATISTICS

Number of roll mark-offs per hour at election day voting centre



- Carlton
- Carlton Central
- Carlton North
- Docklands
- East Melbourne
- Flemington
- Hotham Hill
- Kensington
- Melbourne
- Melbourne Central
- North Melbourne
- North Melbourne East
- Parkville
- South Kensington

Victorian Electoral Commission

Level 11

530 Collins Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000

Tel: +61 3 8620 1100

Fax: +61 3 9629 8632

vec.vic.gov.au

This publication is available online at vec.vic.gov.au