



## Appendix G

### Comparison of voting systems: Commonwealth and the States/Territories

Jurisdiction	Term	Fixed election dates?*	Full, partial or optional preferential	Proportional Representation?
<b>Commonwealth</b>				
House	3 yrs	no	full	no
Senate	6 yrs	no**	full	yes (each State/Territory a multi-member electorate)
<b>New South Wales</b>				
Legislative Assembly	4 yrs	yes (next election 24.3.07)	optional	no
Legislative Council	8 yrs	yes (24.3.07, for half the Council)	partial <sup>#</sup>	yes (the State is one multi-member electorate)
<b>Victoria<sup>##</sup></b>				
Legislative Assembly	4 yrs	yes (next election 25.11.06)	full	no
Legislative Council	4 yrs	yes (25.11.06)	partial <sup>#</sup>	yes (eight five-member provinces)
<b>Queensland</b>				
Legislative Assembly	3 yrs	no	optional	no
<b>Western Australia</b>				
Legislative Assembly	4 yrs	no	full	no
Legislative Council	4 yrs	no**	full	yes (six regions, two returning seven members and four returning five members)

<b>South Australia</b>				
Legislative Assembly	4 yrs	yes (next election 18.3.06)	full	no
Legislative Council	8 yrs	yes (18.3.06)	full	yes (the State is one multi-member electorate)
<b>Tasmania</b>				
Legislative Assembly	4 yrs	no	partial <sup>#</sup>	yes (five five-member electorates)
Legislative Council	6 yrs	yes	partial <sup>#</sup>	no
<b>ACT</b>				
Legislative Assembly	3 yrs	yes (next election 16.10.04)	partial <sup>#</sup>	yes (one seven-member electorate and two five-member electorates)
<b>Northern Territory</b>				
Legislative Assembly	4 yrs	no	full	no

*Note \** Jurisdictions providing for fixed election dates typically have mechanisms allowing for an earlier election in limited circumstances, eg a successful motion of no confidence in the government.

*Note \*\** While election dates are not fixed, representatives are elected for a set term commencing at a date subsequent to the date of election.

*Note #* A voter for the NSW Legislative Council must record a preference either for at least one voting group, with preferences flowing to candidates in the marked group/s, or must record a preference for at least 15 ungrouped candidates. A voter for the Victorian Legislative Council must record a preference either for one voting group only, with preferences flowing to all candidates for election according to the group's voting ticket/s, or must record a preference for at least five ungrouped candidates (equating to the number of vacancies to be filled for a Council province). A voter for the Tasmanian Legislative Assembly must record preferences for at least five candidates (equating to the number of vacancies to be filled for an Assembly division). A voter for the Tasmanian Legislative Council must record preferences for at least three candidates (where three or more candidates are standing). A voter for the ACT Legislative Assembly must record at least as many preferences as there are vacancies to be filled (either five or seven depending on the Assembly electorate).

*Note ##* The electoral system for Victoria listed in this table is as amended by the *Victorian Constitution (Parliamentary Reform) Act 2003*, assented to 8 April 2003.