

State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill

Supplementary Submission 13 February 2004

On the last page of my submission of 13 October 2003 I quoted the report of the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner on the enrolment figures as at 30 June 2003. They ranged in the metropolitan area between Wanneroo 44725 and Perth 22942 and in the country area between Dawesville 19225 and Eyre 9110. The Commissioner's figures as at 31 December show that the range in the metropolitan area is now between Wanneroo 45731 and Girrawheen 22866 and in the country area between Dawesville 19612 and Eyre 8964.

On 4 August 2003 the Electoral Distribution Commissioners published their determination, pursuant to the *Electoral Distribution Act 1947*, of the electoral boundaries which will apply under that legislation to the next State general election, which is due in late 2004 or early 2005. Under the determination the range of enrolments as at 31 January 2004 in the metropolitan area was between Darling Range 28176 and Mindarie 23322 and in the country area between Warren-Blackwood 14994 and Leschenault 12505. These statistics were obtained by matching current enrolment data at Census Collector District (CCD) level to data from the division of the State that was published on 4 August 2003. The Electoral Commissioner will not publish the new figures until after 30 June 2004, when the elector master file will have been converted to the new boundaries.

The elections for the unicameral Parliament of Queensland on 8 February 2004 show how necessary it is for the Australian Parliament to enact a *State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill* to implement Article 25 of the ICCPR. Of the 89 Queensland seats nine had an enrolment of more than 30 000 and three an enrolment of fewer than 20 000:

Kurwongbah	32214
Noosa	31780
Burleigh	31746
Kawana	31423
Murrumba	30649
Beaudesert	30138
Brisbane Central	30120
Robina	30059
Ferny Grove	30046
Gregory	19068
Charters Towers	18559
Mt Isa	16946

One should not assume that members of the House of Representatives are competent to represent large areas but that members of State Assemblies are not competent to do so.