



# Part 5

## Referendums and Plebiscites

Referendums and Plebiscites.....	373
Referendum results .....	374
Plebiscite results .....	398



32<sup>nd</sup> Edition **PARLIAMENTARY HANDBOOK** of the Commonwealth of Australia

# Referendums and Plebiscites

## Constitutional referendums

The referendum is used in Australia as part of the formal process of amending the Commonwealth Constitution. Section 128 of the Constitution requires that a proposal to amend the Constitution must first take the form of a Bill submitted to the Commonwealth Parliament. Between two and six months after it leaves the Parliament, the proposal 'shall be submitted' to the voters in the States and Territories in the form of a referendum.

The Constitution originally provided that Bills to alter the Constitution had to be approved by referendum in a majority of States and by a majority of all electors voting. Following an amendment in 1977, the Constitution now allows electors in the Territories, as well as electors in the States, to vote in constitutional referendums. Territory votes are included in the national total only. No proposed amendment diminishing the proportionate representation of any State in either House of the Parliament, or the minimum number of representatives of a State in the House of Representatives, or altering the boundaries of a State, may become law unless the majority of the electors voting in that State approve the proposed law.

The *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* provides the machinery for conducting referendums. Constitutional referendums have been held on nineteen separate occasions, involving forty-four separate amendment attempts.

Only eight of the forty-four proposals have been carried by referendum:

- **Senate Elections** (12 December 1906) made minor alterations concerning Senate elections and terms of Senators
- **State Debts** (13 April 1910) allowed the Commonwealth takeover of State debts
- **State Debts** (17 November 1928) formalised the position of the Loan Council
- **Social Services** (28 September 1946) gave the Commonwealth power to provide certain social services
- **Aboriginals** (27 May 1967) gave the Commonwealth power to make laws for Aboriginal people resident in the States and to include all Aboriginal people in the national census
- **Casual Vacancies** (21 May 1977) aimed at ensuring that a replacement Senator should be from the same party as the departing Senator
- **Territory Votes** (21 May 1977) gave residents of the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory the right to vote in constitutional referendums
- **Retirement of Judges** (21 May 1977) provided for a retirement age of seventy for all federal judges.

## National plebiscites

In Australia referendums on questions that do not affect the Constitution are usually called plebiscites. They have no legal force. Three national plebiscites have been held: two on the conscription of troops during World War I and one on a national song in 1977.

The following pages show the voting figures at each constitutional referendum\* and national plebiscite. In all cases the italicised words provide the question asked of voters on the referendum ballot paper.

The numbering of the referendums and plebiscites has been provided for the convenience of the reader. It is not an official numbering.

\* For all referendums up to and including that for 13 December 1919 the sum of 'For', 'Against' and 'Informal' does not equal 'Votes'. The difference is 'Ballot papers issued but not accounted for'.

# Referendum results

12 December 1906

## (1) Senate Elections

### Question

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Senate Elections) 1906'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Senate Elections) 1906 sought to amend section 13, including altering Senators' terms so as to commence on 1 July (previously 1 January) and end on 30 June (previously 31 December).*

### Result

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	737 599	381 019	286 888	83.85	55 261	16.15	37 929
Victoria	672 054	380 953	282 739	83.10	57 487	16.90	38 936
Queensland	271 109	124 352	81 295	76.84	24 502	23.16	15 325
South Australia	193 118	70 479	54 297	86.99	8 121	13.01	7 892
Western Australia	145 473	52 712	34 736	78.93	9 274	21.07	6 312
Tasmania	90 209	48 762	34 056	81.32	7 825	18.68	5 761
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 109 562</b>	<b>1 058 277</b>	<b>774 011</b>	<b>82.65</b>	<b>162 470</b>	<b>17.35</b>	<b>112 155</b>

Obtained majority in all six States and an overall majority of 611 541 votes.

*Carried*

13 April 1910

## (2) Finance; (3) State Debts

**Question 1**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Finance) 1909'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Finance) 1909* sought to amend section 87 (the 'Braddon Clause') which was due to lapse in 1910, in order to give constitutional effect to a financial agreement reached between the States and the Commonwealth to replace the section.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	834 662	512 802	227 650	47.35	253 107	52.65	31 411
Victoria	703 699	468 535	200 165	45.26	242 119	54.74	24 299
Queensland	279 031	170 634	87 130	54.58	72 516	45.42	9 489
South Australia	207 655	110 503	49 352	49.06	51 250	50.94	9 679
Western Australia	134 979	83 893	49 050	61.74	30 392	38.26	3 890
Tasmania	98 456	57 609	32 167	59.99	21 454	40.01	3 669
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 258 482</b>	<b>1 403 976</b>	<b>645 514</b>	<b>49.04</b>	<b>670 838</b>	<b>50.96</b>	<b>82 437</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 25 324 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (State Debts) 1909'?*

The Constitution gave the Commonwealth Parliament power to take over debts of the States in existence at the establishment of the Commonwealth. *Constitution Alteration (State Debts) 1909* sought to give the Commonwealth unrestricted power to take over State debts by deleting words from section 105.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	834 662	512 802	159 275	33.34	318 412	66.66	34 060
Victoria	703 699	468 535	279 392	64.59	153 148	35.41	33 824
Queensland	279 031	170 634	102 705	64.57	56 346	35.43	9 971
South Australia	207 655	110 503	72 985	73.18	26 742	26.82	10 252
Western Australia	134 979	83 893	57 367	72.80	21 437	27.20	4 324
Tasmania	98 456	57 609	43 329	80.97	10 186	19.03	3 778
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 258 482</b>	<b>1 403 976</b>	<b>715 053</b>	<b>54.95</b>	<b>586 271</b>	<b>45.05</b>	<b>96 209</b>

Obtained majority in five States and an overall majority of 128 782 votes.

*Carried*

26 April 1911

(4) Trade and Commerce; (5) Nationalisation of Monopolies

**Question 1**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Legislative Powers) 1910'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Legislative Powers) 1910* sought to extend the Commonwealth Parliament's powers over trade and commerce, the control of corporations, labour and employment, and combinations and monopolies. All of the proposed changes were contained within one question.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	868 194	384 188	135 968	36.11	240 605	63.89	7 396
Victoria	723 377	448 566	170 288	38.64	270 390	61.36	7 554
Queensland	293 003	162 135	69 552	43.75	89 420	56.25	3 002
South Australia	216 027	133 802	50 358	38.07	81 904	61.93	1 374
Western Australia	138 697	61 482	33 043	54.86	27 185	45.14	870
Tasmania	102 326	58 053	24 147	42.11	33 200	57.89	673
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 341 624</b>	<b>1 248 226</b>	<b>483 356</b>	<b>39.42</b>	<b>742 704</b>	<b>60.58</b>	<b>20 869</b>

Obtained majority in one State and an overall minority of 259 348 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Monopolies) 1910'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Monopolies) 1910* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to nationalise any industry declared by both Houses of Parliament to be the subject of a monopoly.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	868 194	384 188	138 237	36.72	238 177	63.28	7 618
Victoria	723 377	448 566	171 453	38.95	268 743	61.05	8 041
Queensland	293 003	162 135	70 259	44.26	88 472	55.74	3 200
South Australia	216 027	133 802	50 835	38.42	81 479	61.58	1 344
Western Australia	138 697	61 482	33 592	55.84	26 561	44.16	898
Tasmania	102 326	58 053	24 292	42.43	32 960	57.57	753
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 341 624</b>	<b>1 248 226</b>	<b>488 668</b>	<b>39.89</b>	<b>736 392</b>	<b>60.11</b>	<b>21 854</b>

Obtained majority in one State and an overall minority of 247 724 votes.

*Not Carried*

31 May 1913

(6) Trade and Commerce; (7) Corporations; (8) Industrial Matters;  
(9) Railway Disputes; (10) Trusts; (11) Nationalisation of Monopolies

**Question 1**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Trade and Commerce) 1912'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Trade and Commerce) 1912* sought to extend the Commonwealth Parliament's power to make laws with respect to trade and commerce.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 036 187	717 855	317 848	46.93	359 418	53.07	39 333
Victoria	830 391	626 861	297 290	49.12	307 975	50.88	21 268
Queensland	363 082	280 525	146 187	54.34	122 813	45.66	11 304
South Australia	244 026	195 463	96 085	51.32	91 144	48.68	8 017
Western Australia	179 784	132 149	66 349	52.86	59 181	47.14	6 286
Tasmania	106 746	80 398	34 660	45.16	42 084	54.84	3 528
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 760 216</b>	<b>2 033 251</b>	<b>958 419</b>	<b>49.38</b>	<b>982 615</b>	<b>50.62</b>	<b>89 736</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 24 196 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Corporations) 1912'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Corporations) 1912* sought to extend the Commonwealth Parliament's power to make laws with respect to corporations.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 036 187	717 855	317 668	46.79	361 255	53.21	37 676
Victoria	830 391	626 861	298 479	49.14	308 915	50.86	19 139
Queensland	363 082	280 525	146 936	54.31	123 632	45.69	9 736
South Australia	244 026	195 463	96 309	51.34	91 273	48.66	7 664
Western Australia	179 784	132 149	66 595	52.84	59 445	47.16	5 776
Tasmania	106 746	80 398	34 724	45.08	42 304	54.92	3 244
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 760 216</b>	<b>2 033 251</b>	<b>960 711</b>	<b>49.33</b>	<b>986 824</b>	<b>50.67</b>	<b>83 235</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 26 113 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 3**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Industrial Matters) 1912'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Industrial Matters) 1912 sought to extend the Commonwealth Parliament's power to make laws with respect to industrial matters.*

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 036 187	717 855	318 622	46.88	361 044	53.12	36 933
Victoria	830 391	626 861	297 892	49.02	309 804	50.98	18 837
Queensland	363 082	280 525	147 171	54.36	123 554	45.64	9 579
South Australia	244 026	195 463	96 626	51.40	91 361	48.60	7 259
Western Australia	179 784	132 149	66 451	52.71	59 612	47.29	5 753
Tasmania	106 746	80 398	34 839	45.20	42 236	54.80	3 197
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 760 216</b>	<b>2 033 251</b>	<b>961 601</b>	<b>49.33</b>	<b>987 611</b>	<b>50.67</b>	<b>81 558</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 26 010 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 4**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Railway Disputes) 1912'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Railways Disputes) 1912 sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power over industrial relations in the State railway services.*

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 036 187	717 855	316 928	46.70	361 743	53.30	37 928
Victoria	830 391	626 861	296 255	48.79	310 921	51.21	19 357
Queensland	363 082	280 525	146 521	54.19	123 859	45.81	9 924
South Australia	244 026	195 463	96 072	51.28	91 262	48.72	7 912
Western Australia	179 784	132 149	65 957	52.38	59 965	47.62	5 894
Tasmania	106 746	80 398	34 625	45.01	42 296	54.99	3 351
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 760 216</b>	<b>2 033 251</b>	<b>956 358</b>	<b>49.13</b>	<b>990 046</b>	<b>50.87</b>	<b>84 366</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 33 688 votes.

*Not Carried*



**Question 5**

Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Trusts) 1912'?

*Constitution Alteration (Trusts) 1912* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to trusts.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 036 187	717 855	319 150	47.12	358 155	52.88	39 294
Victoria	830 391	626 861	301 729	49.71	305 268	50.29	19 536
Queensland	363 082	280 525	147 871	54.78	122 088	45.22	10 345
South Australia	244 026	195 463	96 400	51.67	90 185	48.33	8 661
Western Australia	179 784	132 149	67 342	53.59	58 312	46.41	6 162
Tasmania	106 746	80 398	34 839	45.38	41 935	54.62	3 498
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 760 216</b>	<b>2 033 251</b>	<b>967 331</b>	<b>49.78</b>	<b>975 943</b>	<b>50.22</b>	<b>87 496</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 8 612 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 6**

Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Nationalisation of Monopolies) 1912'?

*Constitution Alteration (Nationalisation of Monopolies) 1912* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to monopolies.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 036 187	717 855	301 192	46.85	341 724	53.15	73 683
Victoria	830 391	626 861	287 379	49.07	298 326	50.93	40 828
Queensland	363 082	280 525	139 019	54.17	117 609	45.83	23 676
South Australia	244 026	195 463	91 411	51.26	86 915	48.74	16 920
Western Australia	179 784	132 149	64 988	53.19	57 184	46.81	9 644
Tasmania	106 746	80 398	33 176	45.22	40 189	54.78	6 907
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 760 216</b>	<b>2 033 251</b>	<b>917 165</b>	<b>49.33</b>	<b>941 947</b>	<b>50.67</b>	<b>171 658</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 24 782 votes.

*Not Carried*

13 December 1919

(12) Legislative Powers; (13) Nationalisation of Monopolies

**Question 1**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Legislative Powers) 1919'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Legislative Powers) 1919* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament a temporary extension of its legislative powers in regard to trade and commerce, corporations, industrial matters and trusts.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 079 439	717 565	259 751	39.95	390 450	60.05	67 132
Victoria	837 408	638 098	369 210	64.65	201 869	35.35	66 227
Queensland	389 200	330 231	175 225	57.35	130 299	42.65	24 397
South Australia	268 235	178 092	40 520	25.28	119 789	74.72	17 656
Western Australia	163 544	103 235	48 142	51.75	44 892	48.25	9 854
Tasmania	112 036	65 716	18 509	33.43	36 861	66.57	10 128
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 849 862</b>	<b>2 032 937</b>	<b>911 357</b>	<b>49.65</b>	<b>924 160</b>	<b>50.35</b>	<b>195 394</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 12 803 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Nationalisation of Monopolies) 1919'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Nationalisation of Monopolies) 1919* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to monopolies.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 079 439	717 565	227 156	38.31	365 847	61.69	124 330
Victoria	837 408	638 098	324 343	63.29	188 129	36.71	124 834
Queensland	389 200	330 231	162 062	56.92	122 650	43.08	45 209
South Australia	268 235	178 092	38 503	25.54	112 259	74.46	27 203
Western Australia	163 544	103 235	45 285	53.99	38 584	46.01	19 019
Tasmania	112 036	65 716	16 531	34.08	31 982	65.92	16 985
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 849 862</b>	<b>2 032 937</b>	<b>813 880</b>	<b>48.64</b>	<b>859 451</b>	<b>51.36</b>	<b>357 580</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 45 571 votes.

*Not Carried*



4 September 1926

## (14) Industry and Commerce; (15) Essential Services

**Question 1**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Industry and Commerce) 1926'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Industry and Commerce) 1926* sought to extend the Commonwealth Parliament's power to make laws in relation to corporations, and to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to trusts and combinations in restraint of trade, trade unions and employer associations.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 241 635	1 131 656	566 973	51.53	533 284	48.47	31 399
Victoria	968 861	888 661	310 261	36.23	546 138	63.77	32 262
Queensland	440 632	399 664	202 691	52.10	186 374	47.90	10 599
South Australia	303 054	281 492	78 983	29.32	190 396	70.68	12 113
Western Australia	190 286	164 555	46 469	29.29	112 185	70.71	5 901
Tasmania	110 484	98 356	41 711	44.86	51 278	55.14	5 367
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>3 254 952</b>	<b>2 964 384</b>	<b>1 247 088</b>	<b>43.50</b>	<b>1 619 655</b>	<b>56.50</b>	<b>97 641</b>

Obtained majority in two States and an overall minority of 372 567 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Essential Services) 1926'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Essential Services) 1926* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to take measures necessary to protect the public against an actual or probable interruption of essential services.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 241 635	1 131 656	545 270	50.39	536 734	49.61	49 652
Victoria	968 861	888 661	296 548	35.55	537 560	64.45	54 553
Queensland	440 632	399 664	188 473	50.56	184 320	49.44	26 871
South Australia	303 054	281 492	81 966	31.32	179 740	68.68	19 786
Western Australia	190 286	164 555	39 566	25.90	113 222	74.10	11 767
Tasmania	110 484	98 356	43 679	48.59	46 217	51.41	8 460
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>3 254 952</b>	<b>2 964 384</b>	<b>1 195 502</b>	<b>42.80</b>	<b>1 597 793</b>	<b>57.20</b>	<b>171 089</b>

Obtained majority in two States and an overall minority of 402 291 votes.

*Not Carried*

17 November 1928

(16) State Debts

**Question**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (State Debts) 1928'?*

*Constitution Alteration (State Debts) 1928* sought to insert section 105A which would in effect ratify the Financial Agreement which had already been accepted by all the Australian Governments. This terminated the system of per capita payments which had been in operation since 1910, and restricted the right of each State to borrow for its own development by subjecting that borrowing to control by a Loan Council.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 335 660	1 244 918	754 446	64.47	415 846	35.53	74 626
Victoria	1 006 463	953 477	791 425	87.78	110 143	12.22	51 909
Queensland	465 423	435 298	367 257	88.60	47 250	11.40	20 791
South Australia	319 584	301 179	164 628	62.68	98 017	37.32	38 534
Western Australia	203 146	183 475	96 913	57.53	71 552	42.47	15 010
Tasmania	114 490	106 153	62 722	66.89	31 044	33.11	12 387
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>3 444 766</b>	<b>3 224 500</b>	<b>2 237 391</b>	<b>74.30</b>	<b>773 852</b>	<b>25.70</b>	<b>213 257</b>

Obtained majority in all six States and an overall majority of 1 463 539 votes.

*Carried*

6 March 1937

## (17) Aviation; (18) Marketing

**Question 1**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Aviation) 1936'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Aviation) 1936* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power with respect to air navigation and aircraft.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 550 947	1 461 860	664 589	47.25	741 821	52.75	55 450
Victoria	1 128 492	1 074 278	675 481	65.10	362 112	34.90	36 685
Queensland	562 240	519 933	310 352	61.87	191 251	38.13	18 330
South Australia	358 069	341 444	128 582	40.13	191 831	59.87	21 031
Western Australia	247 536	221 832	100 326	47.58	110 529	52.42	10 977
Tasmania	133 444	125 016	45 616	38.94	71 518	61.06	7 882
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>3 980 728</b>	<b>3 744 363</b>	<b>1 924 946</b>	<b>53.56</b>	<b>1 669 062</b>	<b>46.44</b>	<b>150 355</b>

Obtained majority in two States and an overall majority of 255 884 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Marketing) 1936'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Marketing) 1936* sought to remove the restraints imposed on the Commonwealth Parliament by section 92.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 550 947	1 461 860	456 802	33.76	896 457	66.24	108 601
Victoria	1 128 492	1 074 278	468 337	46.58	537 021	53.42	68 920
Queensland	562 240	519 933	187 685	38.78	296 302	61.22	35 946
South Australia	358 069	341 444	65 364	20.83	248 502	79.17	27 578
Western Australia	247 536	221 832	57 023	27.77	148 308	72.23	16 501
Tasmania	133 444	125 016	24 597	21.88	87 798	78.12	12 621
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>3 980 728</b>	<b>3 744 363</b>	<b>1 259 808</b>	<b>36.26</b>	<b>2 214 388</b>	<b>63.74</b>	<b>270 167</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 954 580 votes.

*Not Carried*

19 August 1944

(19) Post-War Reconstruction and Democratic Rights

**Question**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Post-War Reconstruction and Democratic Rights) 1944'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Post-War Reconstruction and Democratic Rights) 1944, the 'Fourteen Powers' or 'Fourteen Points' Referendum, sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power, for a period of five years, to legislate with respect to the fourteen specified matters, which included the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen, national health, family allowances and 'the people of Aboriginal race' as well as, in some form, many of the matters on which powers to legislate had been sought in 1911 (that is, corporations, trusts, combines and monopolies). There were also to be inserted constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and religion and safeguards against the abuse of delegated legislative power. All of these proposed alterations were put to voters in the form of one question.*

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 758 166	1 694 119	759 211	45.44	911 680	54.56	23 228
Victoria	1 266 662	1 227 571	597 848	49.31	614 487	50.69	15 236
Queensland	633 907	599 568	216 262	36.52	375 862	63.48	7 444
South Australia	403 133	392 443	196 294	50.64	191 317	49.36	4 832
Western Australia	278 722	272 339	140 399	52.25	128 303	47.75	3 637
Tasmania	143 359	139 411	53 386	38.92	83 769	61.08	2 256
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>4 483 949</b>	<b>4 325 451*</b>	<b>1 963 400</b>	<b>45.99</b>	<b>2 305 418</b>	<b>54.01</b>	<b>56 633</b>

\* Including 417 082 votes by members of the Forces, of which 218 452 were for, 195 148 against and 3482 informal.

Obtained majority in two States and an overall minority of 342 018 votes.

*Not Carried*



28 September 1946

## (20) Social Services; (21) Marketing; (22) Industrial Employment

**Question 1**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Social Services) 1946'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Social Services) 1946* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power over a wide range of social services by inserting a new subsection into section 51.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 858 749	1 757 150	897 887	54.00	764 723	46.00	94 540
Victoria	1 345 537	1 261 374	671 967	55.98	528 452	44.02	60 955
Queensland	660 316	612 170	299 205	51.26	284 465	48.74	28 500
South Australia	420 361	399 301	197 395	51.73	184 172	48.27	17 734
Western Australia	300 337	279 066	164 017	62.26	99 412	37.74	15 637
Tasmania	154 553	144 880	67 463	50.58	65 924	49.42	11 493
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>4 739 853</b>	<b>4 453 941*</b>	<b>2 297 934</b>	<b>54.39</b>	<b>1 927 148</b>	<b>45.61</b>	<b>228 859</b>

\* Including 37 021 votes by members of the Forces of which in the case of  
 (1) 22 824 were for, 13 211 against and 986 informal;  
 (2) 19 924 for, 15 997 against, 1100 informal; and  
 (3) 20 445 for, 15 239 against, 1337 informal.

Obtained majority in all six States and an overall majority of 370 786 votes.

*Carried*

**Question 2**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Organised Marketing of Primary Products) 1946'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Organised Marketing of Primary Products) 1946* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to the organised marketing of primary products, unrestricted by section 92.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 858 749	1 757 150	855 233	51.83	794 852	48.17	107 065
Victoria	1 345 537	1 261 374	624 343	52.37	567 860	47.63	69 171
Queensland	660 316	612 170	251 672	43.74	323 678	56.26	36 820
South Australia	420 361	399 301	183 674	48.74	193 201	51.26	22 426
Western Australia	300 337	279 066	145 781	56.21	113 562	43.79	19 723
Tasmania	154 553	144 880	55 561	42.55	75 018	57.45	14 301
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>4 739 853</b>	<b>4 453 941*</b>	<b>2 116 264</b>	<b>50.57</b>	<b>2 068 171</b>	<b>49.43</b>	<b>269 506</b>

\* See note under Question 1 above.

Obtained majority in three States and an overall majority of 48 093 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 3**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Industrial Employment) 1946'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Industrial Employment) 1946* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to the terms and conditions of industrial employment (but not so as to authorise any form of industrial conscription).

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 858 749	1 757 150	833 822	51.72	778 280	48.28	145 048
Victoria	1 345 537	1 261 374	609 355	52.08	560 773	47.92	91 246
Queensland	660 316	612 170	243 242	43.42	316 970	56.58	51 958
South Australia	420 361	399 301	179 153	48.20	192 516	51.80	27 632
Western Australia	300 337	279 066	142 186	55.74	112 881	44.26	23 999
Tasmania	154 553	144 880	52 517	41.37	74 440	58.63	17 923
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>4 739 853</b>	<b>4 453 941*</b>	<b>2 060 275</b>	<b>50.30</b>	<b>2 035 860</b>	<b>49.70</b>	<b>357 806</b>

\* See note under Question 1 on previous page.

Obtained majority in three States and an overall majority of 24 415 votes.

*Not Carried*



29 May 1948

## (23) Rents and Prices

**Question**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) 1947'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) 1947* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament ongoing power to make laws with respect to rents and prices.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 880 779	1 762 091	723 183	41.66	1 012 639	58.34	26 269
Victoria	1 351 853	1 270 007	559 331	44.63	693 937	55.37	16 739
Queensland	669 555	617 678	187 955	30.80	422 236	69.20	7 487
South Australia	422 809	402 778	167 171	42.15	229 438	57.85	6 169
Western Australia	301 223	278 282	105 605	38.59	168 088	61.41	4 589
Tasmania	157 668	145 135	50 437	35.45	91 845	64.55	2 853
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>4 783 887</b>	<b>4 475 971*</b>	<b>1 793 682</b>	<b>40.66</b>	<b>2 618 183</b>	<b>59.34</b>	<b>64 106</b>

\* Including 11 905 votes by members of the Forces, of which 6557 were for, 5213 against and 135 informal.

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 824 471 votes.

*Not Carried*

22 September 1951

## (24) Communists and Communism

**Question**

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Powers to deal with Communists and Communism) 1951'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Powers to deal with Communists and Communism) 1951* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to communists and communism where this was necessary for the security of the Commonwealth.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 944 219	1 861 147	865 838	47.17	969 868	52.83	25 441
Victoria	1 393 556	1 326 024	636 819	48.71	670 513	51.29	18 692
Queensland	709 328	675 916	373 156	55.76	296 019	44.24	6 741
South Australia	442 983	427 253	198 971	47.29	221 763	52.71	6 519
Western Australia	319 383	305 653	164 989	55.09	134 497	44.91	6 167
Tasmania	164 868	158 596	78 154	50.26	77 349	49.74	3 093
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>4 974 337</b>	<b>4 754 589*</b>	<b>2 317 927</b>	<b>49.44</b>	<b>2 370 009</b>	<b>50.56</b>	<b>66 653</b>

\* Including 9477 votes by members of the Forces, of which 6478 were for, 2912 against and 82 informal.

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 52 082 votes.

*Not Carried*

27 May 1967

(25) Parliament; (26) Aboriginals

**Question 1**

*Do you approve the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'An Act to alter the Constitution so that the number of Members of the House of Representatives may be increased without necessarily increasing the number of Senators'?*

Section 24 of the Constitution requires that the number of Members of the House of Representatives must be approximately double the number of Senators. *Constitution Alteration (Parliament) 1967* sought to alter the Constitution so as to remove this 'nexus'.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	2 315 828	2 166 507	1 087 694	51.01	1 044 458	48.99	34 355
Victoria	1 734 476	1 630 594	496 826	30.87	1 112 506	69.13	21 262
Queensland	904 808	848 728	370 200	44.13	468 673	55.87	9 855
South Australia	590 275	560 844	186 344	33.91	363 120	66.09	11 380
Western Australia	437 609	405 666	114 841	29.05	280 523	70.95	10 302
Tasmania	199 589	189 245	42 764	23.06	142 660	76.94	3 821
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>6 182 585</b>	<b>5 801 584</b>	<b>2 298 669</b>	<b>40.25</b>	<b>3 411 940</b>	<b>59.75</b>	<b>90 975</b>

Obtained majority in one State and an overall minority of 1 113 271 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*Do you approve the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'An Act to alter the Constitution so as to omit certain words relating to the people of the Aboriginal race in any state so that Aboriginals are to be counted in reckoning the population'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Aboriginals) 1967* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to Aboriginal people wherever they lived in Australia. It also sought to make it possible to include Aboriginal people in national censuses. The amendment deleted part of section 51 (xxvi) and repealed section 127.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	2 315 828	2 166 507	1 949 036	91.46	182 010	8.54	35 461
Victoria	1 734 476	1 630 594	1 525 026	94.68	85 611	5.32	19 957
Queensland	904 808	848 728	748 612	89.21	90 587	10.79	9 529
South Australia	590 275	560 844	473 440	86.26	75 383	13.74	12 021
Western Australia	437 609	405 666	319 823	80.95	75 282	19.05	10 561
Tasmania	199 589	189 245	167 176	90.21	18 134	9.79	3 935
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>6 182 585</b>	<b>5 801 584</b>	<b>5 183 113</b>	<b>90.77</b>	<b>527 007</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>91 464</b>

Obtained majority in all six States and an overall majority of 4 656 106 votes.

*Carried*

8 December 1973

(27) Prices; (28) Incomes

**Question 1**

*Do you approve the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'An Act to alter the Constitution so as to enable the Australian Parliament to control prices'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Prices) 1973* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to prices.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	2 827 989	2 618 673	1 257 499	48.55	1 332 485	51.45	28 689
Victoria	2 129 494	2 001 924	891 144	45.18	1 081 120	54.82	29 660
Queensland	1 128 417	1 055 299	402 506	38.47	643 770	61.53	9 023
South Australia	737 573	700 333	282 754	41.16	404 181	58.84	13 398
Western Australia	588 789	542 122	169 605	31.90	362 121	68.10	10 396
Tasmania	241 207	229 016	85 631	38.22	138 416	61.78	4 969
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>7 653 469</b>	<b>7 147 367</b>	<b>3 089 139</b>	<b>43.81</b>	<b>3 962 093</b>	<b>56.19</b>	<b>96 135</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 872 954 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*Do you approve the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'An Act to alter the Constitution so as to enable the Australian Parliament to make laws with respect to incomes'?*

*Constitution Alteration (Incomes) 1973* sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to incomes.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	2 827 989	2 618 673	1 041 429	40.31	1 542 217	59.69	35 027
Victoria	2 129 494	2 001 924	657 756	33.44	1 309 302	66.56	34 866
Queensland	1 128 417	1 055 299	331 163	31.70	713 562	68.30	10 574
South Australia	737 573	700 333	193 301	28.25	490 943	71.75	16 089
Western Australia	588 789	542 122	133 531	25.21	396 199	74.79	12 392
Tasmania	241 207	229 016	63 135	28.31	159 862	71.69	6 019
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>7 653 469</b>	<b>7 147 367</b>	<b>2 420 315</b>	<b>34.42</b>	<b>4 612 085</b>	<b>65.58</b>	<b>114 967</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 2 191 770 votes.

*Not Carried*

18 May 1974

(29) Simultaneous Elections; (30) Mode of Altering the Constitution;  
(31) Democratic Elections; (32) Local Government Bodies

**Question 1**

*Proposed law entitled 'An Act to alter the Constitution so as to ensure that Senate elections are held at the same time as House of Representatives elections'.*

*Do you approve the proposed law?*

House and Senate elections need not be held simultaneously, though they usually are. *Constitution Alteration (Simultaneous Elections) 1974* proposed to make simultaneous elections compulsory.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	2 835 558	2 702 903	1 359 485	51.06	1 303 117	48.94	40 301
Victoria	2 161 474	2 070 893	1 001 111	49.19	1 033 969	50.81	35 813
Queensland	1 154 762	1 098 401	481 092	44.32	604 444	55.68	12 865
South Australia	750 308	722 434	332 369	47.14	372 666	52.86	17 399
Western Australia	612 016	577 989	248 860	44.07	315 786	55.93	13 343
Tasmania	246 596	237 891	96 793	41.37	137 156	58.63	3 942
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>7 760 714</b>	<b>7 410 511</b>	<b>3 519 710</b>	<b>48.30</b>	<b>3 767 138</b>	<b>51.70</b>	<b>123 663</b>

Obtained majority in one State and an overall minority of 247 428 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*Proposed law entitled 'An Act to facilitate alterations to the Constitution and to allow electors in territories, as well as electors in the states, to vote at referendums on proposed laws to alter the Constitution'.*

*Do you approve the proposed law?*

*Constitution Alteration (Mode of Altering the Constitution) 1974* sought to make two alterations to section 128. The first was to provide electors in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory with the right to vote in constitutional referendums. The second was to enable amendments to be made to the Constitution if approved by a majority of Australian voters and a majority of voters in half the States.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	2 835 558	2 702 903	1 367 476	51.35	1 295 621	48.65	39 806
Victoria	2 161 474	2 070 893	1 001 753	49.22	1 033 486	50.78	35 654
Queensland	1 154 762	1 098 401	480 926	44.29	604 816	55.71	12 659
South Australia	750 308	722 434	311 954	44.26	392 891	55.74	17 589
Western Australia	612 016	577 989	240 134	42.53	324 435	57.47	13 420
Tasmania	246 596	237 891	95 264	40.72	138 674	59.28	3 953
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>7 760 714</b>	<b>7 410 511</b>	<b>3 497 507</b>	<b>47.99</b>	<b>3 789 923</b>	<b>52.01</b>	<b>123 081</b>

Obtained majority in one State and an overall minority of 292 416 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 3**

*Proposed law entitled 'An Act to alter the Constitution so as to ensure that the members of the House of Representatives and of the parliaments of the states are chosen directly and democratically by the people'.*

*Do you approve the proposed law?*

*Constitution Alteration (Democratic Elections) 1974 sought to make population instead of electors the basis of determining the average size of electorates in each State.*

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	2 835 558	2 702 903	1 345 983	50.55	1 316 837	49.45	40 083
Victoria	2 161 474	2 070 893	970 903	47.71	1 064 023	52.29	35 967
Queensland	1 154 762	1 098 401	474 337	43.70	611 135	56.30	12 929
South Australia	750 308	722 434	310 839	44.11	393 857	55.89	17 738
Western Australia	612 016	577 989	241 946	42.86	322 587	57.14	13 456
Tasmania	246 596	237 891	95 463	40.81	138 430	59.19	3 998
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>7 760 714</b>	<b>7 410 511</b>	<b>3 439 471</b>	<b>47.20</b>	<b>3 846 869</b>	<b>52.80</b>	<b>124 171</b>

Obtained majority in one State and an overall minority of 407 398 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 4**

*Proposed law entitled 'An Act to alter the Constitution to enable the Commonwealth to borrow money for, and to grant financial assistance to, local government bodies'.*

*Do you approve the proposed law?*

*Constitution Alteration (Local Government Bodies) 1974 sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament powers to borrow money for, and to make financial assistance grants directly to, any local government body.*

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	2 835 558	2 702 903	1 350 274	50.79	1 308 039	49.21	44 590
Victoria	2 161 474	2 070 893	961 664	47.38	1 068 120	52.62	41 109
Queensland	1 154 762	1 098 401	473 465	43.68	610 537	56.32	14 399
South Australia	750 308	722 434	298 489	42.52	403 479	57.48	20 466
Western Australia	612 016	577 989	229 337	40.67	334 529	59.33	14 123
Tasmania	246 596	237 891	93 495	40.03	140 073	59.97	4 323
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>7 760 714</b>	<b>7 410 511</b>	<b>3 406 724</b>	<b>46.85</b>	<b>3 864 777</b>	<b>53.15</b>	<b>139 010</b>

Obtained majority in one State and an overall minority of 458 053 votes.

*Not Carried*

21 May 1977

(33) Simultaneous Elections; (34) Senate Casual Vacancies;  
(35) Referendums; (36) Retirement of Judges

**Question 1**

*It is proposed to alter the Constitution to ensure that Senate elections are held at the same time as House of Representatives elections.*

*Do you approve the proposed law?*

*Constitution Alteration (Simultaneous Elections) 1977 proposed to introduce simultaneous elections for both Houses of Parliament.*

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 002 241	2 774 388	1 931 775	70.71	800 331	29.29	42 282
Victoria	2 252 439	2 083 136	1 325 708	65.00	713 929	35.00	43 499
Queensland	1 240 738	1 138 842	534 968	47.51	590 942	52.49	12 932
South Australia	799 063	745 990	480 827	65.99	247 762	34.01	17 401
Western Australia	682 441	617 463	292 344	48.47	310 765	51.53	14 354
Tasmania	259 620	246 063	82 785	34.26	158 818	65.74	4 460
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>8 236 542</b>	<b>7 605 882</b>	<b>4 648 407</b>	<b>62.22</b>	<b>2 822 547</b>	<b>37.78</b>	<b>134 928</b>

Obtained majority in three States and an overall majority of 1 825 860 votes.

*Not Carried*

**Question 2**

*It is proposed to alter the Constitution to ensure as far as practicable that a casual vacancy in the Senate is filled by a person of the same political party as the Senator chosen by the people and for the balance of his term.*

*Do you approve the proposed law?*

*Constitution Alteration (Senate Casual Vacancies) 1977 sought, by amending section 15, to ensure as far as practicable that a casual vacancy in the Senate would be filled by a person of the same political party as the Senator chosen by the people, and that the new Senator would hold the seat for the balance of the original term.*

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 002 241	2 774 388	2 230 218	81.62	502 171	18.38	41 999
Victoria	2 252 439	2 083 136	1 552 558	76.13	486 798	23.87	43 780
Queensland	1 240 738	1 138 842	662 732	58.86	463 165	41.14	12 945
South Australia	799 063	745 990	557 950	76.59	170 536	23.41	17 504
Western Australia	682 441	617 463	344 389	57.11	258 655	42.89	14 419
Tasmania	259 620	246 063	129 924	53.78	111 638	46.22	4 501
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>8 236 542</b>	<b>7 605 882</b>	<b>5 477 771</b>	<b>73.32</b>	<b>1 992 963</b>	<b>26.68</b>	<b>135 148</b>

Obtained majority in all six States and an overall majority of 3 484 808 votes.

*Carried*

**Question 3**

*It is proposed to alter the Constitution so as to allow electors in the Territories, as well as electors in the States, to vote at referendums on proposed laws to alter the Constitution.*

*Do you approve the proposed law?*

*Constitution Alteration (Referendums) 1977* sought to allow electors in Territories to vote in constitutional referendums, by amending section 128. Their votes would count in the national tally only.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 002 241	2 774 388	2 292 822	83.92	439 247	16.08	42 319
Victoria	2 252 439	2 083 136	1 647 187	80.78	391 855	19.22	44 094
Queensland	1 240 738	1 138 842	670 820	59.58	455 051	40.42	12 971
South Australia	799 063	745 990	606 743	83.29	121 770	16.71	17 477
Western Australia	682 441	617 463	437 751	72.62	165 049	27.38	14 663
Tasmania	259 620	246 063	150 346	62.25	91 184	37.75	4 533
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>8 236 542</b>	<b>7 605 882</b>	<b>5 805 669</b>	<b>77.72</b>	<b>1 664 156</b>	<b>22.28</b>	<b>136 057</b>

Obtained majority in all six States and an overall majority of 4 141 513 votes.

*Carried*

**Question 4**

*It is proposed to alter the Constitution so as to provide for retiring ages for judges of federal courts.*

*Do you approve the proposed law?*

*Constitution Alteration (Retirement of Judges) 1977* proposed, by inserting new paragraphs into section 72, to establish a retiring age of seventy for judges of federal courts.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 002 241	2 774 388	2 316 999	84.84	414 070	15.16	43 319
Victoria	2 252 439	2 083 136	1 659 273	81.43	378 505	18.57	45 358
Queensland	1 240 738	1 138 842	734 183	65.24	391 227	34.76	13 432
South Australia	799 063	745 990	622 760	85.57	104 987	14.43	18 243
Western Australia	682 441	617 463	472 228	78.37	130 307	21.63	14 928
Tasmania	259 620	246 063	174 951	72.46	66 478	27.54	4 634
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>8 236 542</b>	<b>7 605 882</b>	<b>5 980 394</b>	<b>80.10</b>	<b>1 485 574</b>	<b>19.90</b>	<b>139 914</b>

Obtained majority in all six States and an overall majority of 4 494 820 votes.

*Carried*

1 December 1984

(37) Terms of Senators; (38) Interchange of Powers

**Question 1**

*An Act to change the terms of senators so that they are no longer of fixed duration and to provide that Senate elections and House of Representatives elections are always held on the same day.*

*Do you approve this proposed alteration?*

*Constitution Alteration (Terms of Senators) 1984 proposed to introduce simultaneous elections for both Houses of Parliament.*

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 424 032	3 215 901	1 621 894	52.86	1 446 150	47.14	147 857
Victoria	2 614 383	2 475 484	1 244 451	53.20	1 094 760	46.80	136 273
Queensland	1 555 600	1 447 284	642 768	45.65	765 329	54.35	39 187
South Australia	906 278	856 226	398 127	49.98	398 463	50.02	59 636
Western Australia	859 623	806 614	358 502	46.47	412 996	53.53	35 116
Tasmania	290 028	277 100	102 762	39.29	158 777	60.71	15 561
Australian Capital Territory	150 416	141 009	76 901	56.68	58 764	43.32	5 344
Northern Territory	68 857	58 668	28 310	51.87	26 265	48.13	4 093
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>9 869 217</b>	<b>9 278 286</b>	<b>4 473 715</b>	<b>50.64</b>	<b>4 361 504</b>	<b>49.36</b>	<b>443 067</b>

Obtained majority in two States and an overall majority of 112 211 votes.

*Not carried*

**Question 2**

*An Act to enable the Commonwealth and the States voluntarily to refer powers to each other.*

*Do you approve this proposed alteration?*

The Constitution places some hurdles in the way of easy cooperation between the Commonwealth and State governments. *Constitution Alteration (Interchange of Powers) 1984* sought to introduce more flexibility into the constitutional provisions relating to Commonwealth–State relations.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 424 032	3 215 901	1 475 971	49.04	1 533 799	50.96	206 131
Victoria	2 614 383	2 475 484	1 139 565	49.86	1 146 136	50.14	189 783
Queensland	1 555 600	1 447 284	578 674	41.69	809 249	58.31	59 361
South Australia	906 278	856 226	355 588	45.94	418 433	54.06	82 205
Western Australia	859 623	806 614	336 184	44.28	423 022	55.72	47 408
Tasmania	290 028	277 100	87 933	34.65	165 878	65.35	23 289
Australian Capital Territory	150 416	141 009	74 741	56.10	58 487	43.90	7 781
Northern Territory	68 857	58 668	25 684	47.78	28 066	52.22	4 918
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>9 869 217</b>	<b>9 278 286</b>	<b>4 074 340</b>	<b>47.06</b>	<b>4 583 070</b>	<b>52.94</b>	<b>620 876</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 508 730 votes.

*Not carried*



3 September 1988

(39) Parliamentary Terms; (40) Fair Elections; (41) Local Government;  
(42) Rights and Freedoms**Question 1**

*A Proposed Law: To alter the Constitution to provide for 4 year maximum terms for members of both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament.*

*Do you approve this proposed alteration?*

*Constitution Alteration (Parliamentary Terms) 1988* sought to increase House of Representatives terms from a maximum of three years to a maximum of four years, and to reduce Senate terms from a six-year fixed term to a four-year fixed term. It also sought to introduce simultaneous elections for the Houses.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 564 856	3 297 246	1 032 621	31.66	2 228 503	68.34	36 122
Victoria	2 697 096	2 491 427	886 223	36.20	1 561 907	63.80	43 297
Queensland	1 693 247	1 552 293	542 414	35.15	1 000 124	64.84	9 755
South Australia	938 142	873 511	229 938	26.76	629 454	73.24	14 119
Western Australia	926 636	845 209	255 553	30.67	577 553	69.33	12 103
Tasmania	302 324	282 785	70 698	25.34	208 297	74.66	3 790
Australian Capital Territory	166 131	149 128	64 458	43.62	83 328	56.38	1 342
Northern Territory	74 695	56 370	21 092	38.13	34 222	61.87	1 056
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>10 363 127</b>	<b>9 547 969</b>	<b>3 102 997</b>	<b>32.92</b>	<b>6 323 388</b>	<b>67.08</b>	<b>121 584</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 3 217 670 votes.

*Not carried*

**Question 2**

*A Proposed Law: To alter the Constitution to provide for fair and democratic parliamentary elections throughout Australia.*

*Do you approve this proposed alteration?*

*Constitution Alteration (Fair Elections) 1988* sought to ensure that democratic electoral arrangements would be guaranteed for Commonwealth, State and Territory elections.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 564 856	3 297 246	1 159 713	35.57	2 100 604	64.43	36 929
Victoria	2 697 096	2 491 427	981 678	40.12	1 465 186	59.88	44 563
Queensland	1 693 247	1 552 293	691 492	44.83	850 979	55.17	9 822
South Australia	938 142	873 511	263 006	30.61	596 102	69.39	14 403
Western Australia	926 636	845 209	266 637	32.02	566 145	67.98	12 427
Tasmania	302 324	282 785	80 608	28.89	198 372	71.11	3 805
Australian Capital Territory	166 131	149 128	76 815	51.99	70 937	48.01	1 376
Northern Territory	74 695	56 370	23 763	42.99	31 512	57.01	1 095
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>10 363 127</b>	<b>9 547 969</b>	<b>3 543 712</b>	<b>37.60</b>	<b>5 879 837</b>	<b>62.40</b>	<b>124 420</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 2 335 741 votes.

*Not carried*

**Question 3**

*A Proposed Law: To alter the Constitution to recognise local government.*

*Do you approve this proposed alteration?*

The Constitution recognises government at the Commonwealth and State levels but makes no mention of local government. *Constitution Alteration (Local Government) 1988* sought to give such constitutional recognition to local government.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 564 856	3 297 246	1 033 364	31.70	2 226 529	68.30	37 353
Victoria	2 697 096	2 491 427	882 094	36.06	1 564 116	63.94	45 217
Queensland	1 693 247	1 552 293	590 868	38.31	951 332	61.69	10 093
South Australia	938 142	873 511	256 421	29.85	602 499	70.15	14 591
Western Australia	926 636	845 209	247 829	29.76	584 863	70.24	12 517
Tasmania	302 324	282 785	76 707	27.50	202 214	72.50	3 864
Australian Capital Territory	166 131	149 128	58 755	39.78	88 945	60.22	1 428
Northern Territory	74 695	56 370	21 449	38.80	33 826	61.20	1 095
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>10 363 127</b>	<b>9 547 969</b>	<b>3 167 487</b>	<b>33.62</b>	<b>6 254 324</b>	<b>66.38</b>	<b>126 158</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 3 084 678 votes.

*Not carried*

**Question 4**

*A Proposed Law: To alter the Constitution to extend the right to trial by jury, to extend freedom of religion, and to ensure fair terms for persons whose property is acquired by any government.*

*Do you approve this proposed alteration?*

*Constitution Alteration (Rights and Freedoms) 1988* sought to guarantee various civil rights in relation to trials, freedom of religion and compulsory acquisition of property.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	3 564 856	3 297 246	965 045	29.65	2 289 645	70.35	42 556
Victoria	2 697 096	2 491 427	816 011	33.42	1 625 762	66.58	49 654
Queensland	1 693 247	1 552 293	506 710	32.90	1 033 645	67.10	11 938
South Australia	938 142	873 511	223 038	26.01	634 438	73.99	16 035
Western Australia	926 636	845 209	233 916	28.14	597 320	71.86	13 973
Tasmania	302 324	282 785	70 987	25.49	207 486	74.51	4 312
Australian Capital Territory	166 131	149 128	60 064	40.71	87 460	59.29	1 604
Northern Territory	74 695	56 370	20 503	37.14	34 699	62.86	1 168
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>10 363 127</b>	<b>9 547 969</b>	<b>2 896 274</b>	<b>30.79</b>	<b>6 510 455</b>	<b>69.21</b>	<b>141 240</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 3 610 924 votes.

*Not carried*

6 November 1999

## (43) Establishment of Republic; (44) Preamble

**Question 1**

*A Proposed Law: To alter the Constitution to establish the Commonwealth of Australia as a republic with the Queen and Governor-General being replaced by a President appointed by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commonwealth Parliament.*

*Do you approve this proposed alteration?*

*Constitution Alteration (Establishment of Republic) 1999* sought to establish the Commonwealth of Australia as a republic with the Queen and Governor-General being replaced by a President appointed by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commonwealth Parliament.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	4 146 653	3 948 714	1 817 380	46.43	2 096 562	53.57	34 772
Victoria	3 164 843	3 016 737	1 489 536	49.84	1 499 138	50.16	28 063
Queensland	2 228 377	2 108 694	784 060	37.44	1 309 992	62.56	14 642
South Australia	1 027 392	986 394	425 869	43.57	551 575	56.43	8 950
Western Australia	1 176 311	1 114 326	458 306	41.48	646 520	58.52	9 500
Tasmania	327 729	315 641	126 271	40.37	186 513	59.63	2 857
Australian Capital Territory	212 586	202 614	127 211	63.27	73 850	36.73	1 553
Northern Territory	108 149	91 880	44 391	48.77	46 637	51.23	852
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>12 392 040</b>	<b>11 785 000</b>	<b>5 273 024</b>	<b>45.13</b>	<b>6 410 787</b>	<b>54.87</b>	<b>101 189</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 1 137 763 votes.

*Not carried*

**Question 2**

*A Proposed Law: To alter the Constitution to insert a preamble.*

*Do you approve this proposed alteration?*

*Constitution Alteration (Preamble) 1999* sought to alter the Constitution to insert an additional preamble.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	4 146 653	3 948 482	1 647 378	42.14	2 261 960	57.86	39 144
Victoria	3 164 843	3 016 716	1 268 044	42.46	1 718 331	57.54	30 341
Queensland	2 228 377	2 108 659	686 644	32.81	1 405 841	67.19	16 174
South Australia	1 027 392	986 535	371 965	38.10	604 245	61.90	10 325
Western Australia	1 176 311	1 114 455	383 477	34.73	720 542	65.27	10 436
Tasmania	327 729	315 664	111 415	35.67	200 906	64.33	3 343
Australian Capital Territory	212 586	202 618	87 629	43.61	113 293	56.39	1 696
Northern Territory	108 149	91 906	35 011	38.52	55 880	61.48	1 015
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>12 392 040</b>	<b>11 785 035</b>	<b>4 591 563</b>	<b>39.34</b>	<b>7 080 998</b>	<b>60.66</b>	<b>112 474</b>

Obtained majority in no State and an overall minority of 2 489 435 votes.

*Not carried*

## Plebiscite results

28 October 1916

### (1) Military Service

#### Question

*Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requiring their military service, for the term of this war, outside the Commonwealth, as it now has in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?*

This plebiscite, conducted under the *Military Service Referendum Act 1916*, was held due to the Commonwealth Government's desire to increase its available forces for overseas service.

#### Result

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 055 986	858 399	356 805	42.92	474 544	57.08	27 050
Victoria	824 972	696 684	353 930	51.88	328 216	48.12	14 538
Queensland	366 042	309 921	144 200	47.71	158 051	52.29	7 670
South Australia	262 781	211 252	87 924	42.44	119 236	57.56	4 092
Western Australia	167 602	140 648	94 069	69.71	40 884	30.29	5 695
Tasmania	107 875	88 231	48 493	56.17	37 833	43.83	1 905
Federal Territories	4 572	3 468	2 136	62.73	1 269	37.27	63
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 789 830</b>	<b>2 308 603*</b>	<b>1 087 557</b>	<b>48.39</b>	<b>1 160 033</b>	<b>51.61</b>	<b>61 013</b>

\* Including 133 813 votes by members of the Australian Imperial Force, of which 72 399 were for, 58 894 against, and 2520 informal.

Obtained majority in three States and an overall minority of 72 476 votes.

*Not carried*

20 December 1917

## (2) Military Service

**Question**

*Are you in favour of the proposal of the Commonwealth Government for reinforcing the Australian Imperial Force overseas?*

This plebiscite, conducted under the *War Precautions (Military Service Referendum) Regulations 1917*, was held due to the Commonwealth Government's desire to conscript men for overseas service in sufficient numbers to make the total reinforcements (including volunteers) up to 7000 a month.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	For		Against		Informal
				%		%	
New South Wales	1 055 883	853 894	341 256	41.16	487 774	58.84	24 864
Victoria	807 331	678 806	329 772	49.79	332 490	50.21	16 544
Queensland	378 378	310 164	132 771	44.02	168 875	55.98	8 518
South Australia	261 661	197 970	86 663	44.90	106 364	55.10	4 943
Western Australia	162 347	135 593	84 116	64.39	46 522	35.61	4 955
Tasmania	106 803	78 792	38 881	50.24	38 502	49.76	1 409
Federal Territories	2 855	3 468	2 136	62.73	1 269	37.27	82
<b>Total for Commonwealth</b>	<b>2 775 258</b>	<b>2 258 687*</b>	<b>1 015 595</b>	<b>46.22</b>	<b>1 181 796</b>	<b>53.78</b>	<b>61 315</b>

\* Including 199 677 votes by members of the Australian Imperial Force, of which 103 789 were for, 93 910 against, and 1978 informal.

Obtained majority in two States and an overall minority of 166 588 votes.

*Not carried*

21 May 1977

(3) National Song

**Question**

Against the background that 'GOD SAVE THE QUEEN' is the NATIONAL ANTHEM to be played on Regal and Vice Regal occasions, electors may indicate their preferences as to which of the TUNES OF THE SONGS listed below they would prefer to be played on other occasions.

The National Song Poll was held in 1977 by the Fraser Government to find a national song. Until 1974 *God Save the Queen/King* was Australia's national anthem. The Whitlam Government, following the result of a public opinion poll conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in February 1974, changed the anthem to *Advance Australia Fair*, except on specifically royal occasions. In January 1976, the Fraser Government reinstated the use of *God Save the Queen* for royal, vice-regal, defence and loyal toast occasions, and decided to find a national song for use on ceremonial occasions when it was necessary to mark a separate Australian identity. *Advance Australia Fair* won the National Song Poll.

**Result**

State	Enrolled	Votes	God Save the Queen		Advance Australia Fair	
			Number	%	Number	%
New South Wales	3 007 511	2 537 805	348 885	15.32	1 169 421	51.35
Victoria	2 252 831	1 951 160	352 603	20.68	683 451	40.09
Queensland	1 241 426	1 056 804	204 453	21.38	438 929	45.90
South Australia	799 243	706 392	114 477	18.07	152 507	24.07
Western Australia	682 291	235 525	113 054	23.17	183 159	37.54
Tasmania	259 081	253 525	47 346	22.38	88 825	41.98
Australian Capital Territory	120 875	22 136	1 448	6.65	7 857	36.11
Northern Territory	38 209	2 951	423	14.93	1 143	40.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 401 467</b>	<b>7 069 046</b>	<b>1 182 689</b>	<b>18.78</b>	<b>2 725 292</b>	<b>43.29</b>

State	Song of Australia		Waltzing Matilda		Informal
	Number	%	Number	%	
New South Wales	121 456	5.33	637 795	28.00	260 248
Victoria	110 591	6.49	557 991	32.73	246 524
Queensland	61 234	6.40	251 609	26.31	100 579
South Australia	215 085	33.95	151 434	23.90	72 889
Western Australia	75 524	15.48	116 142	23.81	68 394
Tasmania	21 091	9.97	54 329	25.68	23 934
Australian Capital Territory	1 863	8.56	10 593	48.68	375
Northern Territory	413	14.58	854	30.14	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>607 257</b>	<b>9.65</b>	<b>1 780 747</b>	<b>28.28</b>	<b>773 061</b>

