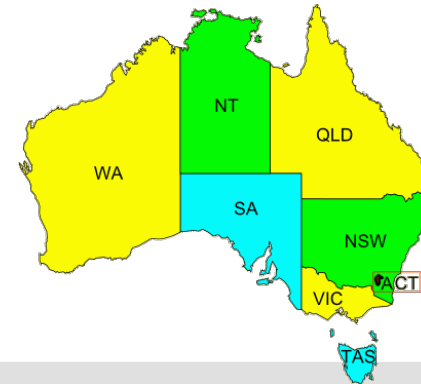


Methods of election in Australian parliaments



STV
(single transferable vote)

AV
(alternative vote)

The 'standard model': AV for the lower house, STV for the upper house

Commonwealth

Senate
STV: 76 members

House of Representatives
AV: 150 members

Victoria

Legislative Council
STV: 40 members

Legislative Assembly
AV: 88 members

Western Australia

Legislative Council
STV: 36 members

Legislative Assembly
AV: 59 members

New South Wales

Legislative Council
STV: 42 members

Legislative Assembly
AV: 93 members

South Australia

Legislative Council
STV: 22 members

House of Assembly
AV: 47 members

Commonwealth, Victoria and WA: upper house STV elections use divisions of 5-6 seats

NSW and SA: upper house STV elections are one state-wide division

The inverted model: STV lower houses

Tasmania

Legislative Council
AV: 15 members

House of Assembly
STV: 25 members

ACT

No upper house

Legislative Assembly
STV: 25 members

Tasmanian and ACT STV elections both use 5 divisions of 5 seats

The unicameral model: no upper houses

Queensland

No upper house

Legislative Assembly
AV: 89 members

Northern Territory

No upper house

Legislative Assembly
AV: 25 members

Queensland LC abolished in 1922, NT never had an upper house

KEY CHANGES:

Introduction of preferential voting (AV): All Australian legislatures converted from plurality to AV at various dates from 1919 to the 1930s

STV in Tasmania: the transition to STV in the lower house began in 1896 and was permanent from 1907.

STV for upper houses: Four state upper houses converted to STV in 1978 (NSW), 1985 (South Australia), 2002 (Victoria) and 2005 (Western Australia)

Territory legislatures: NT legislature established 1975 with AV; ACT legislature established 1989 with a party PR-system, then converted to STV from 1995

Unicameral: All states and the Commonwealth began bicamerally. Queensland's Legislative Council was abolished in 1922; the territory legislatures were established with one house

Rotation: upper houses for the Commonwealth (the Senate), NSW and South Australia are elected in two rotations of half the seats; Tasmanian LC elections are staggered over time