

**INQUIRY INTO THE 2016 FEDERAL ELECTION**

**TITLE                      Roll Divergence**

**KEY POINTS**

- Electoral roll divergence occurs where an elector has a different enrolment status or address for state and federal purposes, and occurs as a result of differences in legislation or practice between the Commonwealth and states/territories.
- These differences are predominantly found in New South Wales and Victoria.
- In response to increases in roll divergence, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) devoted additional resources to analyse the issues and identify mitigating strategies. The successful implementation of these strategies, along with the 2016 federal election and legislative change in Western Australia, has reduced divergence significantly.
- From a high of 785 000 at the end of 2015, divergence was cut by almost 30 per cent to 562 000 at 31 May 2016. Preliminary figures indicate that roll divergence has since declined further, mainly as a result of the Federal election and a change in WA legislation to accept on the WA State roll Federal Direct Enrolment and Update transactions.
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- The integrity of the electoral roll is critical to our electoral system. The AEC is continuing to actively address this matter.

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## BACKGROUND

- As at 31 May 2016, there were 562 000 enrolments for persons aged 18 and over that were divergent due to procedural reasons.

	Single enrolment		Dual enrolment <sup>(a)</sup>		Total
	Federal only	State only	Federal leading	State leading	
NSW	1	62 566	124	65 704	128 395
VIC	70 673	34 616	82 707	82 483	270 479
QLD	-	-	1	-	1
WA	61 757	542	99 165	258	161 722
SA	4	796	36	317	1 153
TAS	-	-	-	-	-
ACT	-	-	2	-	2
NT	1	-	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	132 436	98 520	182 035	148 762	561 753

(a) Excludes electors who have dual enrolments at the same address

- There are also some electors who are only eligible to vote in federal elections, while others are only eligible to vote in state/territory elections.
- As at 31 May 2016, the following numbers of persons aged 18 and over were respectively enrolled on the Commonwealth electoral roll and the relevant state or territory roll in relation to each of the states and territories.

	Commonwealth Roll	State Roll	Who is larger	Difference between Commonwealth over State	
				Number	%
NSW	5 086 132	5 152 827	State	-66 695	-1.3%
VIC	3 962 588	3 922 459	Federal	40 129	1.0%
QLD	3 076 146	3 075 042	Federal	1 104	0.0%
WA	1 578 786	1 514 340	Federal	64 446	4.1%
SA	1 183 412	1 184 277	State	-865	-0.1%
TAS	373 589	373 533	Federal	56	0.0%
ACT	281 957	281 428	Federal	529	0.2%
NT	133 144	133 143	Federal	1	0.0%
Australia	15 675 754	15 637 049	Federal	38 705	0.2%

