

INNOVATION IN REPRESENTATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: Lower Houses

Parliament	Manhood Suffrage	Adult Suffrage <sup>1</sup>	Abolition of Plural Voting	Secret Ballot	Payment of Members	Compulsory Registration of Voters	First Election With Compulsory Voting	Preferential Voting
United Kingdom	1918	1928	1948	1872	1911	-	-	-
N.S.W.	1858	1902	1894	1858	1889	1921	1930	1926 <sup>2</sup>
VIC.	1857	1909	1899	1856	1870	1923	1927	1911 <sup>3</sup>
QLD.	1859	1905	1905	1859	1886	1914	1915	1892 <sup>4</sup>
S.A.	1856	1894	Never Existed	1856	1887	██████	1944	1929
W.A.	1907	1907 <sup>5</sup>	1907	1877 <sup>6</sup>	1900	1919	1939	1907 <sup>7</sup>
T.S.	1901	1903	1901	1858	1890	1930	1931	P.R. 1907 <sup>8</sup>
Commonwealth	1901	1902 <sup>9</sup>	Never Existed	1901	1901	1911	1925	1918

1. I.e. votes for women. But note that some States did not enfranchise indigent inmates of State charitable institutions at dates given in first two columns (e.g. such people in Queensland did not all attain State franchise until 1915).
2. N.S.W. experimented with the "second ballot" for a few years from 1910 and with P.R. between 1918-1926 but abandoned each in turn.
3. In 1915 optional was replaced by compulsory preferential voting.
4. This was a form of optional contingent voting; preferential voting was abandoned in 1942 in favour of a reversion to "first past the post". *Queensland returned to preferential voting in single member electorates in 1962.*
5. W.A. gave some women the vote in 1899 on the same restricted franchise then applying to men.
6. This was for the elective element of the old Legislative Council of the years before self-government.
7. This was a form of optional contingent voting, replaced in 1911 by the obligatory preferential form.
8. P.R. was introduced in 1896 for the Hobart and Launceston metropolitan areas only: in 1907 it was made general for the State.
9. The Constitution provided that at the (initial) Federal Election of 1901 the franchise was to be that in operation at the time for the Lower House in each State: this meant that in 1901 women generally in S.A. and some women in W.A. had a vote for the first Commonwealth Parliament, which in turn legislated for complete adult suffrage for subsequent Federal Elections.