



# Queensland State Election 2015

## Introduction

This year's Queensland election feels to many Queenslanders like it has come around quickly – maybe too quickly for voters to think about how the different political parties and candidates may invest in the health of Queenslanders. This document is designed to provide brief information about the electoral system in Queensland and how the political parties are focusing on public health and health promotion issues. Public health and health promotion activities provide an excellent return on investment both socially, in terms of lives saved, and financially. For example, health care savings are estimated to provide a financial return on investment to government of \$2 for every \$1 spent on prevention.

AHPA (Qld branch) and PHAA (Qld branch) have collated the following information from a variety of sources to help our members to make an informed decision, considering the impact of this election on the future health of Queenslanders.

## How Queensland's Parliament works

### How it works

The head of state of the Queensland is HRH Queen Elizabeth II represented by the Governor of Queensland, currently His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey. The Governor appoints the Premier and members of Cabinet on the Premier's recommendation from the majority party in the Legislative Assembly (lower house). The Cabinet includes the Premier and ministers (including the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General), but not assistant ministers (who were formerly known as parliamentary secretaries). The Queensland Parliament is different to other states of Australia (and the Commonwealth), with only a lower house (the upper house was abolished in 1922).

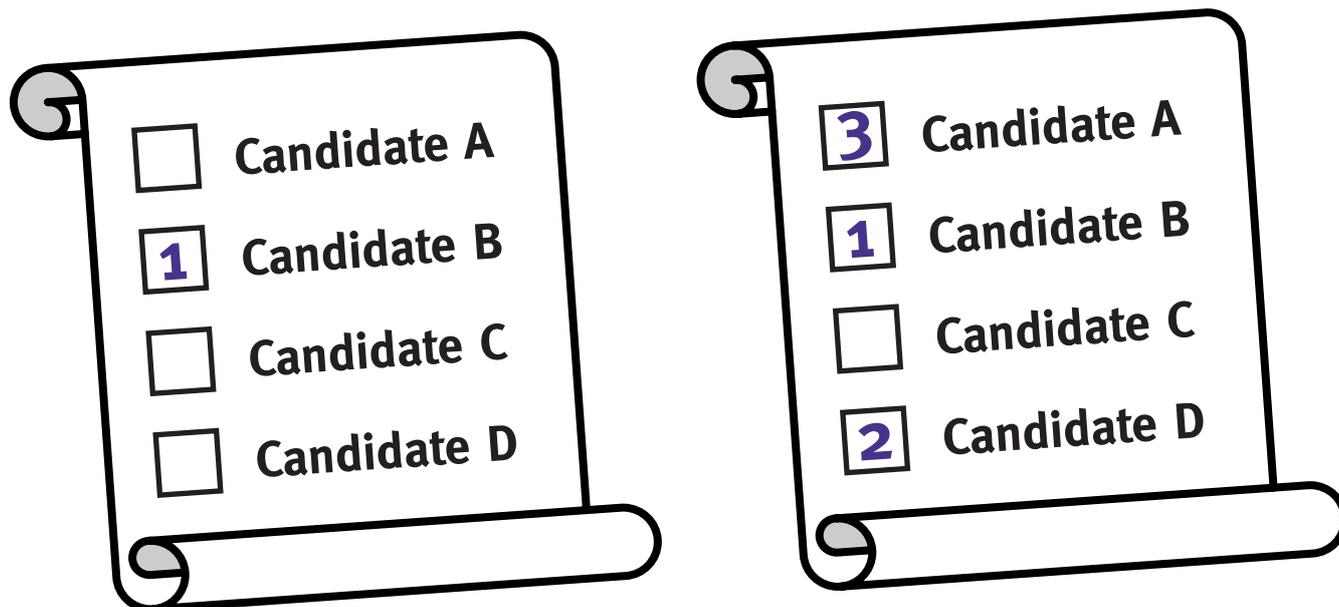
The lower house has 89 members, each of whom represent a single electoral district and are elected using the Optional Preferential Voting system (more about this below). General elections are held in Queensland at least every three years (with no minimum period required between elections), electing the entire Legislative Assembly each time. However, the leaders of the ALP and LNP have indicated that they support in principle a change to four year terms.

### The current Legislative Assembly

In the 2012 election, the LNP won 78 seats compared to seven for the ALP, two for Katter's Australian Party and two for independents. Further changes have led to the current Legislative Assembly, in which the LNP government holds 73 seats, the ALP opposition holds nine, Katter's Australian Party holds three and there are four independents. To find your electoral district visit <http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/state.aspx> and visit <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/members/current/list> to identify your current elected representative.

## Preferential voting

The Optional Preferential Voting system is used in Queensland and NSW. Under this system, you can vote in one of two ways:



Initially, a calculation is made of the majority required to win a seat on first preference votes (primaries), which is 50% + 1 of the number of formal votes. A count is then made of first preferences for each candidate. If a candidate receives an absolute majority (50% + 1 vote) of first preference votes, then that candidate wins the seat. If no candidate wins a majority of first preference votes, a second count is done by excluding the candidate with the fewest votes, and distributing the second preferences based on what voters have indicated. Ballot papers where no second preference was indicated are set aside ('exhausted votes'), which reduces the total number of formal votes left in the count, and a new majority is calculated. If a candidate now has a majority (50% + 1 vote), then that candidate is the winner. This process continues until one candidate has a majority of votes. Further information and examples are available on the Electoral Commission Queensland website <http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/voting.aspx?id=91>.

## Forming a new government

A government needs to win an absolute majority of seats (at least 45) to form majority government and govern in their own right. In the event that the LNP or ALP do not win an absolute majority of seats, a 'hung parliament' results and the successful candidates from the minor parties or independents hold the balance of power. Both the LNP and ALP have ruled out forming a minority government in recent days, although neither has clarified what would happen if both major parties refused to form government.

## How to vote cards

A number of political parties and other organisations produce how to vote cards. If your political views and preferences strongly align with a party or organisation, then this may be useful for you, but you cannot be compelled to follow them. All how to vote cards must state the name and address of the person who authorised them and be lodged with and approved by the Electoral Commission Queensland before the cut-off date to be distributed on polling day.

## Making your vote count

Please consider the future of public health, health promotion and disease prevention when voting in the 2015 Queensland election. Also remember, proof of identity must be shown in order to vote - appropriate identification documents are listed at <http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/voting.aspx?id=92>.

## Our Analysis

Issue	Qld Labor	Liberal National Party	The Greens
<b>Health</b>	<p>Establish a Tier 3 mental health facility for young people with an integrated school in south-east Queensland</p> <p>Rebuild adolescent mental health services and expand services in Townsville to include northern and regional Queensland</p> <p>Allow child care centres to refuse enrolment to children who are not fully immunised</p> <p>\$70M towards 'Health for Life!' program targeting people at high risk of developing diabetes;</p> <p>Support for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and will fund launch site in Queensland</p> <p>Give workplace health and safety representatives more authority</p> <p>400 additional nursing positions</p> <p>\$1.4 million over 4 years for preventative health programs 10,000 Steps and Heart Foundation Walking</p>	<p><b>Wait Time Guarantee:</b> committed to ensuring surgery within the medically recommended time, across the state (unless: it's not Medicare funded, surgeons not available, organ/tissue required)</p> <p><b>Better access to vaccination:</b> achieve target of 95% childhood vaccination rate by allowing community pharmacists to administer vaccinations and assisting parents keep track of records</p> <p><b>Ophthalmology Blitz:</b> \$23.5 million contract with service providers for vision impairment of debilitating eye conditions</p> <p><b>Tackling Dementia:</b> continuation of \$9 million funding for research</p> <p><b>Get in the Game:</b> \$69 million investment in grass roots sport and recreation clubs over the next three years – an additional \$5 million per year</p> <p>Continue to expanding recreation opportunities at South East Queensland's lakes</p>	<p>Promote an increase in number of medical, dental and allied health professionals</p> <p>Fund whole government approach to respond to disease prevention and chronic illness</p> <p>Increase funding and research for services and efficiency measure to reduce pressure on hospital services</p> <p>Access younger chronically ill patients to improve access to accommodation services</p> <p>Enhance capacity building of Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander service providers</p> <p>Increase capacity in public hospital system</p> <p>Adequate funding for cross departmental programs to address health promotion and prevention programs.</p>
<b>Environment</b>	<p>Will legislate to ban the dumping of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area</p> <p>Push for the declaration of a world surfing reserve to protect Gold Coast beaches</p>	<p>Policy withdrawn (22/01/15)</p>	<p>Review and restore the QLD Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>Increase the budget for protected area management</p> <p>Progress a World Heritage nomination for Cape York Peninsula</p> <p>Review and restore the <i>Wild Rivers Act 2005</i>; Review and amend the Coast Management Plan 2014 and State Planning Policy 2014 to include climate change mitigation.</p>

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<b>Families / Communities</b>	<p>“Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence” policy – no sales of alcohol after 3 am</p> <p>Restore public holiday for Labor Day in May</p> <p>\$20 million in grants for services offering respite care for patients with dementia</p> <p>Appoint cabinet minister with portfolio for seniors</p>	<p><b>Anti-Criminal Gang laws:</b> continue to monitor the effectiveness of the laws which will be reviewed three years after commencement.</p> <p><b>Breaks on hoons:</b> Increase police and tighter laws on ‘hoons’</p> <p><b>Safe Night Out Strategy:</b> change culture, laws and environment around alcohol and drugs</p> <p><b>Accord for QLD firefighters:</b> Funding rural fire trucks and providing more funding to our SES volunteers</p> <p><b>Safe young driver rewards:</b> Provide a free 3 year licence to provisional drivers who do not incur demerit point or commit traffic offences</p>	<p>Enshrine a shared understanding of the emotional and physical needs of all older people and ensure a decent standard of living for older people</p> <p>Appoint a Minister for Seniors and establish a Department of Seniors</p> <p>Develop programs to address workplace practices and improve workplace participation for seniors</p> <p>Provide a range of innovative, affordable and secure accommodation options, including public sector housing for all older people</p> <p>Improve respite services for carers.</p>
<b>Transport</b>	<p>Reinstate air fare subsidy to Cape York communities</p>	<p><b>Cutting Fares:</b> implemented reductions in public transport fares by 5%</p>	<p>Prioritise funding to public transport modes</p> <p>Improve resilience of major highways and railways to floods</p> <p>Fund and market active transport usage</p> <p>Prioritise bike lanes and a bikeway network.</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p>No placing principals, deputy principals and teachers on short-term contracts</p> <p>Needs-based language support for students with English as an additional language or dialect</p> <p>Employ additional 45 guidance officers in state high schools</p> <p>Hire additional 2500 teachers in state schools over 3 years</p> <p>\$34 million for TAFE Queensland</p>	<p><b>Future Schools Fund:</b> \$700 million to provide up to 22 new schools; \$300 million to upgrade existing school infrastructure</p> <p><b>Quality Teacher Attraction Plan:</b> \$16.255 million to attract high-achieving graduate and post-graduate students to teaching in Queensland</p> <p><b>More local Independence:</b> provide the opportunity for a further 120 schools to become Independent Public Schools by 2017,</p> <p><b>Great Results Guarantee:</b> \$183 million to be provided to all Queensland state schools, allocated according to education need</p>	<p>Fund schools based on needs of students</p> <p>Increase funding to public education</p> <p>Provide ongoing professional development for educators</p> <p>Work towards smaller class sizes</p> <p>Increase specialist teachers and support services for students with special needs</p> <p>Include history, culture and contemporary experience of Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander people in the school curriculum</p> <p>Include education for environment and social responsibility within curriculum.</p>

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<b>Education cont.</b>		<p><b>Best Start Program:</b> early literacy initiative, including new reading activities and programs in public libraries across the State.</p> <p><b>More prep teacher aids:</b> Providing an extra 2250 prep teacher aide hours</p>	
<b>Jobs and Economy</b>	<p>Reinstating the ‘Skilling Queenslanders for Work’ program</p> <p>Establishing Jobs Queensland to secure industry advice on skills needed in the labour market</p> <p>\$100M towards new stadium in Townsville (jobs in construction and development)</p> <p>Advance Queensland policy to plan for the jobs of the future by focussing on innovation and local technological and scientific skills</p> <p>Ready for Work to help young people enter the labour market</p> <p>Providing a 25% payroll tax rebate for apprentices</p> <p>Restore employment conditions for government workers</p> <p>Review 100% fly-in, fly out practice and new proposals</p> <p>\$40 million to establish a Business Development Fund</p> <p>Replace Royalties for Regions program with targeted infrastructure funds</p>	<p>Goal to reduce QLD yearly interest repayments by \$1.3 billion by leasing assets</p> <p>Provide \$8.6 billion for infrastructure projects across the state, creating up to 25,000 jobs.</p> <p>Put \$3.4 billion toward reducing electricity costs for Queensland families and businesses, stimulating economic activity and potentially creating another 8,600 new jobs.</p> <p>Directing more than \$2 billion towards paying-down Seqwater’s debt – savings of \$52 to water bills in 2016/17 will be passed on to Brisbane, Gold Coast, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Scenic Rim and Somerset families</p> <p>Lift the payroll tax threshold to \$1.4 million by 2017 so thousands of small businesses no longer have to pay payroll tax.</p>	<p>Develop a renewable energy economy and aid the transition to a renewable energy sector</p> <p>Work towards full employment</p> <p>Encourage innovation, support and protect emerging industries and develop increasing diversity of the economy, favouring industries with long term futures.</p>
<b>Commentary</b>		<p>*pharmacist administered vaccination misses opportunities for important child health checks and rapport building with GP/child health nurse</p> <p>*Transport, recreation opportunities &amp; water bill reduction policies focused to major regions only</p>	

\*The above information was taken directly from the Political Parties websites.

\*\*The analysis and commentary performed is the opinion of the authors.

## List of Candidates

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See: <http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/qld-election-2015/guide/candidates/>

Political Parties (ref: [http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/political\\_parties.aspx?id=86](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/political_parties.aspx?id=86))

- Australian Labor Party - State of Queensland
- Queensland Greens
- Family First Party - Queensland Division
- Liberal National Party of Queensland
- One Nation Queensland Division
- Katter's Australian Party
- Palmer United Party

## Get Social

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Social Media is a powerful platform for voters and candidates alike. If you want to know where local candidates stands on a particular issue—or where their preferences will go if you vote for them—get on Facebook or Twitter and ask them.

Share your conversations using the **#healthpromotion** and don't forget to mention **@AHPA\_QLD** and **@PHAAQldbranch** on Twitter where appropriate.

Follow **#qldelection2015**, **#qldpol**, **#qldelection**, **#qldvotes** for important updates and information

## Useful Resources

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### Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ)

The Electoral Commission Queensland was established to run Queensland Elections and to be an independent and impartial body. The main functions include administering Queensland electoral laws, conducting free and democratic parliamentary and industrial elections and to review local government boundaries. Candidates in voting order, polling booths, pre-poll centres plus much more can be found on the ECQ web page.

<http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au>

### Crikey

Crikey has all the latest information, news and coverage of the election from independent news, blogs and commentary.

<http://www.crikey.com.au/topic/queensland-election/>

### ABC News

Services from the ABC include a comprehensive election guide, including a Legislative Assembly Calculator as well as Vote Compass. This allows you to answer a few questions on a range of topic relevant to the election, and then compares to the three major political parties.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/qld-election-2015/>