



Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts!

Thursday, 8 August 2020

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H\Y`BcfH\Yfb`HYff]rcfm9YVtcfU`7ca a]gg]cb`]g`VtbWfbYX`Vmk`UhiUddYUfg`hc`VY`U`
[fck]b[`Xj]Xj]b`dUfh]VUhc]b`VYrk`YYb`i`fVUb`UbX`fYa`chY`Y`Vtcfg`

FYa`chY`j`chY`f`hi`fbc`i`h]b`U`bi`a`VYf`cZ`H\Y`i`Vi`g\i`Y`VtcfU`hY`g`c`j`Yf`H\Y`&\$&\$`HYff]rcfm`
9YV]cb`a`cV]Y`j`ch]b[`dYf]cX`hc`XUH`Ug`VYYb`dccc`K`]h`cb`mcbY`Z`X`UmcZ`fYa`chY`
j`ch]b[`hc`[`c`h`g]`g`i`b`_Y`mV`Ub`Y`

Í`b`dYf`WbhU`Y`hYfa`gZ`h\Y`X]j`]g]cb`cZ`5fUz`fU`k`]`U`[`U]b`Z]j`hc`fYUW`U`hi`fbc`i`hcZ`4`gh)`\$`
dYf`Wbh`H\Y`hi`fbc`i`h]b`U`bi`a`VYf`cZ`chY`fYa`chY`X]j`]g]cb`g`k`]`_Y`mV`Y`4`gh`c`j`Yf`)`\$`dYf`
WbhZ`BH97`7ca`a`]gg]cb`Yf`=U]b`@[`UbU`h`Ub`gU]X`"

Í`H\Y`fY`UfY`a`UbmZ]Vtcfg`h`Uh`Uj`Y`Vtb]f]Vi`hY`hc`h\Y`ck`j`chY`f`bi`a`VYfg`]b`fYa`chY`UfYUg`

Í`5b]V]chU`mci`f`j`ch]b[`hYUa`g`Uj`Y`fYdcfH\Y`h`Uh`h`YfY`Uj`Y`VYYb`a`UbmZ`bYfU`g`UbX`
WfYa`cb]Yg`h`Uhk`YfY`XY`UnYX`VmH\Y`7CJ`=8!%`d`UbX`Ya`]Wk`U]W`UfY`bck`hU`_]b[`d`UW`f`

A`Ubm]dYcd`Y`Uj`Y`Ugc`VYYb`UVgYbhZ`ca`h\Y`f`Vta`a`i`b]hY`g`k`U`b`fYa`chY`j`ch]b[`hYUa`g`
Uj`Y`VYYb`h\Y`fY`"

H\Y`Uf`[`Y`Vta`a`i`b]m]cZA`Ub]b[`f]XU`]b`h\Y`Y`VtcfU`hY`cZ`5fUz`fU`dfcj`]X]g`cbY`Yi`Ua`d`Y`"

H\Y`fY`UfY`%`&`dYcd`Y`cb`h\Y`Y`VtcfU`fc`Zc`A`Ub]b[`f]XUz`ck`Yj`YfZ`4`gh`&(`dYf`Wbh`
hi`fbYX`ci`h`c`j`chY`"

Í`fYa`chY`j`ch]b[`hYUa`gZ`Zc`f`h\Y`Z]fgh]a`Yz`k`YfY`]b`A`Ub]b[`f]XU`hc`h`c`X`Ung`]bghYU`cZ`cbYz`
A`f`@[`UbU`h`Ub`gU]X`"

Í`6i`h`k`Y`k`YfY`hc`X`h`Uha`cgh]dYcd`Y`]b`h\Y`h`ck`b`k`YfY`bch`h\Y`fY`5b]V]chU`nZ`k`Y`k`YfY`hc`X`
h`Uh`bYU`f`m`U`h`Uh`k`YfY`h\Y`fY`X]X`j`chY`f`"

A`f`@[`UbU`h`Ub`gU]X`h`Uh`k`U]Y`7CJ`=8!%`]a`d`]W]h]cbg`UddYUfYX`hc`VY`Uj`]b[`Ub`UX`j`YfgY`
YZYV]cb`fYa`chY`hi`fbc`i`hZ`Y`VY`]Yj`Yg`h\Y`dfcV`Ya`]g`a`cfY`gng]h`a`]W`

Í`DYcd`Y`]j`]b[`]b`i`fVUb`UfYUg`Uj`Y`h\Y`f`Ybfc`a`YbhXYH]g`i`dXUH`X`Ui`hca`Uh]W`m]h`fci`[`U`
h\Y`5i`g]fU`]Ub`9YVtcfU`7ca`a`]gg]cb`g]j`YXYFU`8]fYV]h`9bfc`a`Ybhi`dXUH`gng]h`a`"

Í`6i`h`h`Uhgng]h`a`XcYg`bch]cdYfU`hY`]b`UfYUg`k`U`YfY`h\Y`fY`]g`bc`dcg]U`XY`]j`Yfmi`hc`h\Y`g]fY`Yh`
UXXfYgg`"

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MEDIA RELEASE

"This has led to a decline in roll accuracy in remote communities, making it difficult to measure actual participation," Mr Loganathan said.

"What we do know is that many Aboriginal Territorians are not on the electoral roll, and many of those who are don't vote.

"The gradual and eventual shutdown of remote enrolment programs has also served to disenfranchise remote voters because without that program there is no continuity in remote areas in terms of electoral education and awareness."

At a recent parliamentary inquiry the Australian Electoral Commissioner Tom Rogers said:

"We have had experience of going into some Indigenous communities and they've simply said, 'we are not enrolling, we are disengaged from Australian society, and it doesn't matter how many visits you do, we will not enrol'."

"It would be easy to blame the circumstances that have occurred as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic for the low turnout. But in reality, remote turnout in the Territory has been an issue for decades," Mr Loganathan said.

"The voter numbers from remote communities make it clear that participation in the democratic process is just not a priority.

"How, and whether this view can change is not just a question for the NTEC, it is an issue of concern for every Territorian."

More information go to www.ntec.nt.gov.au