Proportional representation (PR) in NT Local Government elections

A simplified explanation of how votes are counted

Step 1

Informal ballot papers are set aside.

First preference votes for each candidate on formal ballot papers are counted.

Step 2

The quota **(Q)** is calculated as follows:

$$Q = \frac{\text{Total number of formal ballot papers}}{\text{Number of vacancies} + 1} + 1$$

Step 3

Candidates with votes equal to or greater than the quota are elected.

If all vacancies have been filled, the election is complete.

If some vacancies remain unfilled, the votes of elected candidates are checked to see if any received more votes than the quota (surplus votes).

If YES

The elected candidate's surplus votes (those in excess of the quota) are distributed to candidates continuing in the count, according to the next available preference indicated on the ballot papers.

The successful candidate's surplus votes are distributed at a **transfer value (TV)**:

$$TV = \frac{\text{Surplus votes}}{\text{Total formal ballot papers received}}$$

Total votes for each of the continuing candidates are calculated.

- Step 3 is revisited.

If NO

The candidate with the least votes is excluded from the count. That candidate's votes are distributed to candidates continuing in the count, according to the next available preference on the ballot papers.

The votes of an excluded candidate are distributed to continuing candidates at the same vote value as they were received.

Each continuing candidate's total votes are calculated, then:

- Step 3 is revisited, or
- If the number of continuing candidates is equal to the number of vacancies remaining unfilled, all those candidates are declared elected and the election concludes, or
- If there are only two candidates remaining for the last vacancy, the candidate with the highest number of votes is elected.

Note: *A continuing candidate is one who has not yet been elected or excluded from the count.*