

Voting independently and privately

Australia (State of Victoria) / Scytl Secure Electronic Voting, S.A.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

eVoting improves voter access for the visually impaired as well as for the illiterate, those who cannot read English, and citizens living abroad. Voters with visual impairments have the option of using an audio device at an election kiosk or casting their votes by phone.

“This project was a trial of an eVoting solution to bring the privacy and security of voting to visually impaired voters.”

—Sam CAMPBELL, Operations Manager, Asia Pacific, Scytl

FACTS & FIGURES

- In the 2006 trial, the first of its kind in Victoria, 6 voting 'super centres' were set up to host 36 electronic voting terminals.
- In 2010 the system was enhanced to support the use of 12 languages and deployed to 101 early voting centres.
- For the 2010 state election the Victorian Electoral Commission set up over 250 internet-linked phones at 101 locations.

PROBLEMS TARGETED

Prior to this project visually impaired voters were unable to vote in private, as they required the assistance of a sighted person.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

The Victorian Electoral Commission implemented measures to allow visually impaired citizens to vote on an equal basis with their peers: independently, privately, and with the highest security standards. The voting software was customized to support 12 languages, and included several zoom and contrasting options on the kiosk screen and an audio interface. It also offered such additional features as

headphones and a specially selected keyboard. In addition to the technology, Scytl Secure Electronic Voting, S.A. customized the voting system, provided training materials for poll workers and election officials, and completed the on-site support during the election.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

In cooperation with Scytl and Hewlett Packard Australia, the voting system was expanded in terms of functionality, voting channels (including phone voting), and geographical reach (including Victorian citizens residing in the UK or in other Australian states). The state of New South Wales (Australia) and the state of Gujarat (India) have already contracted Scytl to improve their voter accessibility. The Victorian projects were run as trials and supported by legislation. Moving beyond the trial status is expected to increase awareness of the solution via media outreach.

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