

Stafford By-election

August 2014

On 23 May 2014 Dr Chris Davis, Member for Stafford, announced his resignation from the Queensland Parliament. As a result, on 5 June 2014 Queensland Premier the Hon Campbell Newman MP announced that a by-election for the seat of Stafford would be held on Saturday 19 July.

At the Stafford by-election, ALP candidate Dr Anthony Lynham was elected Member for Stafford with a 19.1 per cent notional two-candidate swing.

Dr Lynham is now the ninth Labor MP in the 89-seat Queensland Parliament and has been appointed to the Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Minister for Education, Science, IT and Innovation, Primary Industries and Fisheries, Assisting the Leader on the Public Service.

The Hawker Britton Updated Queensland Shadow Cabinet List is available [here](#).

The next Queensland state election to elect all 89 members of the unicameral Legislative Assembly will occur no later than 20 June 2015.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on forthcoming elections is available [here](#).

Background to the by-election

Dr Chris Davis was elected to the seat of Stafford at the 2012 Queensland election and was appointed Assistant Minister for Health in the first Newman Ministry.

In early 2014, Dr Davis expressed concern over the Queensland Government's treatment of doctors and changes to the Crime and Misconduct Commission. Dr Davis was subsequently dismissed as Assistant Minister by Premier Newman on 13 May 2014.

Following his dismissal, Dr Davis raised further concerns over the Queensland Government's *Electoral Reform Amendment Act 2014*. The legislation instituted a substantial increase in the political donation declaration threshold—from \$1000 to over \$12 400—and removed certain spending restrictions ahead of the 2015 Queensland state election.

On 23 May 2014 Dr Davis announced his resignation from Parliament.

Stafford By-election Results

ALP candidate Dr Anthony Lynham won the by-election with 50.64 per cent of first preference votes, and a notional 19.1 per cent two-candidate preferred swing to the ALP. This result represents the biggest swing at a Queensland by-election since the 1992 changes to the *Electoral Act*.

First Preferences				
<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>% Vote</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Bob Anderson	LNP	8339	33.4	-16.8
Sally-Anne Vincent	FFP	997	4	4
Anne Boccabella	GRN	2971	11.9	0.6
Anthony Lynham	ALP	12626	50.6	17.1
Two-Candidate Preferred				
Bob Anderson	LNP	8925	38	-19.1
Anthony Lynham	ALP	14562	62	19.1

The full results are available on the Electoral Commission Queensland's website [here](#).

Candidates

The Australian Labor Party—Dr Anthony Lynham (elected)

Dr Lynham is a maxillofacial surgeon at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and specialises in trauma surgery. Dr Lynham also holds various academic positions: he is an Adjunct Professor at the Queensland University of Technology, a Senior Lecturer at the University Of Queensland School of Medicine, and is currently Chair of the Final Examinations for Maxillofacial Surgery in Australia and New Zealand. Dr Lynham is an advocate for reform of alcohol laws in an effort to cut down on the number of assaults in public.

Liberal-National Party—Mr Bob Andersen

Following Dr Davis's resignation, the LNP held an accelerated nomination process to select a candidate for the Stafford By-election. Entries closed on 30 May and pre-selections closed four days later on 3 June. Mr Andersen was selected as the LNP candidate.

Mr Andersen is a senior psychologist for Queensland Health at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Adult Acute Psychiatric Unit. Mr Andersen also runs a part-time private practice and has significant experience in psychology services in forensic, clinical, counselling, child safety and family law settings.

Electoral history

Stafford was first formed in 1974 and was held by both major parties until its abolition in 1992.

Stafford was re-established in the 2001 Queensland electoral redistribution following the amalgamation of Chermside and Kedron. Suburbs in the seat include Gordon Park, Grange, Stafford and Stafford Heights, and also parts of Alderley, Chermside, Kedron, Lutwyche and Wilston. Stafford is divided between the Labor-held Federal electorate of Lilley and LNP-held Brisbane.

From 2001, Stafford was held by Labor MPs Terry Sullivan and Stirling Hinchliffe respectively. The seat changed hands at the 2012 election, where a 12.35 per cent swing to the LNP saw the election of Dr Chris Davis.

Results since 2001 are listed below. Although Queensland uses an optional preferential voting system, a notional two-party preferred result for the past five elections has also been included.

Primary vote					Notional 2PP	
Election	ALP	LIB/LNP	Greens	Other	ALP	LIB/LNP
2001	65.4	24.2	10.5	-	72.4	27.6
2004	59.1	29.9	11	-	66.3	33.7
2006	55.5	29.9	10.8	3.8	64.9	35.1
2009	48.4	37.9	11.8	1.9	57.3	42.7
2012	33.6	50.2	11.3	4.9	42.9	57.1
2014	50.6	33.4	11.0	4	62	38