

# How to enrol to vote

Easy to read guide



## How to use this guide



The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) wrote this guide. When you see the word 'we', it means AEC.



We have written this guide in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We have written some words in **bold**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 16.



You can ask for assistance to read this guide. A friend, family member or support person may be able to assist you.

## What's in this guide?

Voting in an election	4
Enrolling to vote	6
What happens next?	12
What if you move house?	13
Are you already on the electoral roll?	14
How can you get more information?	15
Word list	16
Contact us	17

## Voting in an election



In Australia we have a **federal election** about every 3 years.



A federal election is for the whole country.



It's how we choose Australia's government.



The Governor-General chooses the date for the election.

Election day will be on a Saturday.



On that day, Australian people will **vote**.

When you vote, you help to choose who is part of Australia's government.



You must vote if you are:

- an Australian **citizen**
- and
- aged 18 years old or older.



A citizen is someone who is given the rights and freedoms of the country where they live.



Voting lets you have your say about who runs our country.



Don't worry if you haven't voted before.

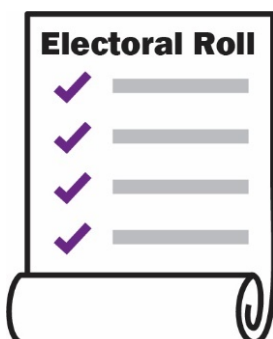


We explain what you need to do.

## Enrolling to vote



Before you can vote, you must **enrol**.



When you enrol, we put your name on a list of **voters** – people who can vote.

This list is called the **electoral roll**.



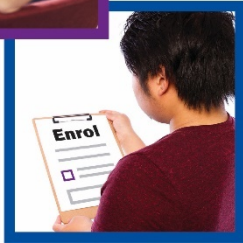
To go on the electoral roll, you must fill out an enrolment form.

## 18+



If you are nearly 18, you can enrol now.

When you turn 18, you'll be ready to vote.



You can fill out an enrolment form:

- online
- on paper.



You can enrol to vote at any time.

But you must enrol before the electoral roll closes to vote in an election.



The electoral roll closes 1 week after the Governor-General chooses the date of the election.



If you enrol before the electoral roll closes, you won't miss out.

## Enrolling online



You can visit our website to enrol to vote online.

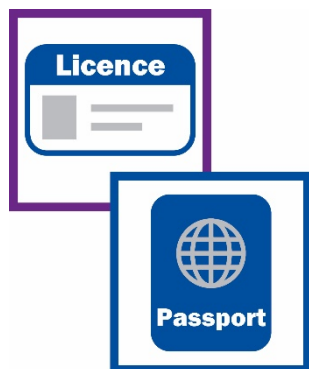
[www.aec.gov.au/enrol](http://www.aec.gov.au/enrol)



There is a button that says: Enrol online.



You need to answer some questions.



You will be asked for proof of who you are, such as a:

- drivers' licence
- passport.



Someone else on the electoral roll can also prove that they know you.



If you want, you can ask someone to assist you.



When you are finished, you need to use the button that says: Submit.



## Enrolling on paper



To enrol on paper, you need to fill out an enrolment form.



You can get an enrolment form at any AEC office.



If you call us, we can send you an enrolment form in the mail.

Our number is **13 23 26**.



You need to answer some questions.



You will be asked for proof of who you are, such as a:

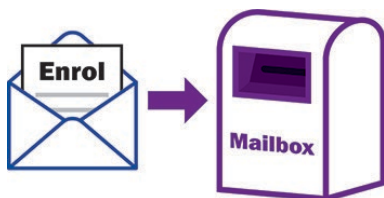
- drivers' licence
- passport.



Someone else on the electoral can also prove that they know you.

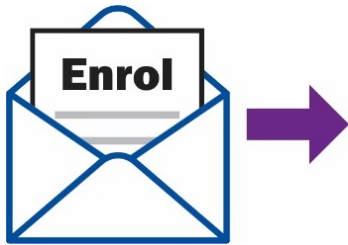


If you want, you can ask someone to assist you.



When you are finished, you need to send us the form.

You can:



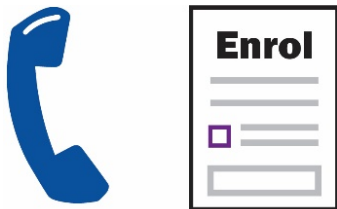
- post it to us at:

AEC

Reply Paid 9867

In your capital city

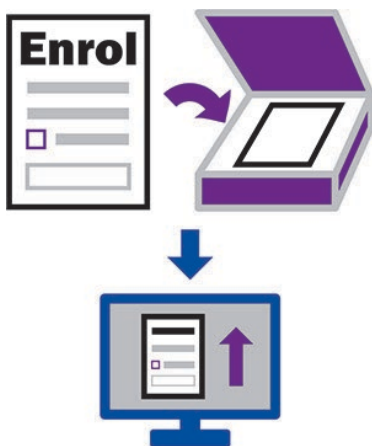
You don't need to use a stamp.



- take it to an AEC office

If you call us, we can assist you to find an AEC office near you.

**13 23 26**



- scan it and upload it to our website.

[www.aec.gov.au/return](http://www.aec.gov.au/return)

## What happens next?



A few weeks after you enrol, we will send you a letter.

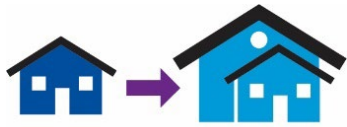


The letter will say that your name has been added to the electoral roll.



This means you can vote in a federal election.

## What if you move house?



You need to tell us every time you move.



This helps us keep the electoral roll up-to-date.



If you move to a new house, please fill out a new enrolment form.

## Are you already on the electoral roll?



It is easy to check if you are already on the electoral roll.

You can:



- visit our website  
[www.aec.gov.au/check](http://www.aec.gov.au/check)



- phone us and we will check for you  
**13 23 26**



- visit an AEC office and we will check for you.

## How can you get more information?



If you want to find out more about voting, we have 2 other guides you can read:

- *How to Vote at a Polling Place*
- *How to Vote by Mail.*



You can find these guides on our website.

[www.aec.gov.au/assistance](http://www.aec.gov.au/assistance)



We also have information on our website for people who speak languages other than English.

## Word list



### **Citizen**

A citizen is someone who is given the rights and freedoms of the country where they live.



### **Electoral roll**

A list of voters.



### **Enrol**

When you enrol, we put your name on a list of voters.



### **Federal election**

A federal election is for the whole country. It's how we choose Australia's government.



### **Vote**

When you vote, you help to choose who is part of Australia's government.



### **Voters**

People who can vote.



## Contact us



### National Relay Service

#### TTY users:

- Phone 13 36 77
- Ask for 13 23 26



#### Speak and listen users:

- Phone 1300 555 727
- Ask for 13 23 26



#### Internet relay users:

- Connect to the NRS
- Ask for 13 23 26



#### Other languages:

- Phone 1300 720 153



[www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au)



[/AusElectoralCom/](https://www.facebook.com/AusElectoralCom/)



[@AusElectoralCom](https://twitter.com/AusElectoralCom)



[@auselectoralcom](https://www.instagram.com/auselectoralcom)



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read guide using stock photography and custom images. The images may not be reused without permission. For any enquiries about the images, please visit [www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com). Quote job number 3035-A.

Authorised by the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Canberra.