

Frequently Asked Questions about Enrolment



Who is eligible to enrol to vote?

Any Australian who:

- is 18 years of age or over
- is an Australian citizen, and
- was a British subject on a Commonwealth electoral roll as at 25 January 1984.

I am almost 18 years old, can I enrol?

Yes, if you are 17 years old and an Australian citizen, you may enrol but are not entitled to vote until you turn 18.

How do I enrol to vote?

If you are 18 years of age or older, and an Australian Citizen, it is compulsory for you to be enrolled at your permanent address.

To get on the electoral roll for federal, state and local government elections you will need to complete an enrolment form. You can pick up an enrolment form from any Medicare, Centrelink, ATO, Australia Post or local AEC divisional office. You can also visit the AEC website www.aec.gov.au or call **13 23 26**.

What proof of identity will I need?

There are three ways to demonstrate your proof of identity when completing the enrolment form, either:

1. Provide your Australian driver's licence number.
2. Show one identification document – like your passport, birth certificate, Medicare card or Centrelink concession card – to an authorised

person who is on the electoral roll, who will then sign a declaration on your enrolment form.

A complete list of authorised persons and identification documents is on the enrolment form. Or if you don't have a driver's licence or an acceptable identity document you can:

3. Ask two people who are already on the electoral roll, and who have known you for at least a month, to confirm your identity by signing your enrolment form.

What address should I enrol for?

You can remain on the electoral roll for your permanent address, or 'real place of living', while you temporarily reside elsewhere, as stated in Section 4 "Interpretation" of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

What does this mean? "Real Place of Living includes the place of living to which a person, when temporarily living somewhere else, has a fixed intention of returning for the purpose of continuing to live at this place." This means that you should enrol for the address that you intend to return to for the purpose of living. Remember that you must vote for the electorate that you are enrolled in, even if you are voting elsewhere.

Do I have to update my enrolment when I move house?

Yes, if you have decided permanently move address you must complete a new enrolment form to update your enrolment. Even if it is just around the corner.

What electoral division am I in?

You can find out what electoral division you live in by visiting www.aec.gov.au and using the find my electorate search. Otherwise you can contact the AEC by calling **13 23 26**.

I have changed my name. Do I need proof of the change?

No. The AEC does not require any supporting evidence to confirm an elector's change of details. But you will need to complete a new enrolment form.

I am physically disabled and cannot sign an enrolment form. How do I enrol?

If you have a physical disability which precludes you from signing the form, you can obtain a special enrolment form by contacting the AEC on **13 23 26** or by visiting www.aec.gov.au and searching enrol to vote page. If you are enrolling this way you may also be eligible to apply to become a general postal voter.

I haven't been enrolled for years. Will I be penalised?

If you fill in an enrolment form now, you won't be penalised.

Where a person may have overlooked the responsibility to enrol and vote, the AEC's main interest is to ensure that eligible people do actually enrol.

Section 101 (7) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* states, "Where a person sends or delivers a claim for enrolment, or for transfer of enrolment, to a Divisional Returning Officer or an Australian Electoral Officer, proceedings shall not be instituted against that person for any offence – committed before the claim was so sent or delivered."

This means that once a person gives the AEC a completed enrolment form, we cannot prosecute the person for not enrolling before, no matter how long he or she has technically been in breach of the law.

Therefore you can be assured that anyone who may have overlooked correct enrolment in the past and who decides to now enrol to vote may do so without any fear of incurring a penalty.

General Postal Voters

Registering as a General Postal Voter (GPV) means that you will automatically be sent ballot papers for each election until you change your enrolled address. This is generally for people who are enrolled at an address that is not near a polling place. This is distinct from a Postal Vote Application (PVA), which is a one-off postal vote and applies to a particular election only, ie. You are on holidays and will not be near a polling place for a specified election.

An elector can only apply to be registered as a general postal voter if they:

- live more than 20 kilometres from a polling place, including a place where mobile polling will be conducted;
- are a patient at a hospital or nursing home where polling will not take place;
- are not in hospital but, due to serious illness or infirmity, are unable to travel from their home to a polling place;
- cannot travel to a polling place because they are caring for a person who is seriously ill or infirm;
- are registered as a silent elector;
- are an elector whose religious beliefs, or membership of a religious order, preclude them from attending a polling place for all or most of the hours of polling;
- are registered as an overseas elector;
- are a member of the defence force, or a defence civilian who is serving outside Australia
- are an Australian Federal Police officer or staff member who is serving outside Australia
- are unable to sign their name due to physical incapacity
- are serving a prison sentence of less than 3 years, on remand or in periodic detention

Want more information?

For more information visit the AEC website at www.aec.gov.au or call us on **13 23 26**.



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Australian Electoral Commission