



Victorian Electoral
Commission



FOR FAMILIES & CARERS

Enrolment & Voting

This leaflet provides information about
enrolment and voting for people with a
cognitive impairment.



THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS ENSHRINED IN VICTORIA'S CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006.

An election provides voters with the opportunity to make a choice about who represents them at different levels of government.

By participating in elections, people living with a disability can participate in their democracy and have their voice heard.

ENROLMENT

Who must enrol to vote?

Federal and State laws require Australian citizens who are 18 years of age or over, and who have lived at their current address for at least one month, to enrol to vote at all Federal, State and local council elections.

It's important to discuss voting, where possible, with a person for whom you provide primary care, even if you consider that they may not be capable of voting.

Many people in the community have difficulties with reading and writing or may not be literate at all. This is not an impediment to enrolling or voting as assistance can be provided in both areas.

How can a person in my care check if they are enrolled?

Enrolment details can be checked online at vec.vic.gov.au or by calling 131 832.

How can a person enrol to vote?

A person can enrol to vote in council, State and Federal election by completing an enrolment form available online at vec.vic.gov.au or by calling 131 832.

Are there any penalties for someone who should have enrolled previously?

They will not be fined if they have not previously enrolled.

VOTING

What if a person is on the roll but can no longer understand the nature and significance of enrolment and voting?

Only a registered medical practitioner can certify in writing that a person is incapable of understanding the nature and significance of enrolment and voting. They can do this using an 'Elector no longer capable' form available online at **vec.vic.gov.au** or by calling **131 832**.

The completed form must be returned to:

**Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000**

can be faxed to: **+61 3 9620 1568**

or emailed to: **elector@vec.vic.gov.au**

The person will then be removed from Federal, State and local government rolls.

Voting in all elections is compulsory for those who are on the electoral roll. For council elections, voting is compulsory for all residents under 70 who are on the State electoral roll.

When is the next election?

Council and State elections have fixed election dates and occur every four years. Check the VEC's website at **vec.vic.gov.au**

Federal election dates are not fixed, but are usually around every three years. Check the Australian Electoral Commission's website at **aec.gov.au**

Where can a person in my care vote?

During Victorian elections, voting centre locations are published online at **vec.vic.gov.au**, including information about each voting centre's accessibility.

Families, carers and staff at voting centres are able to assist voters. Do not hesitate to ask for help if required.

Magnifiers, maxi pencils and wheelchair voting screens are available at every voting centre for State and council attendance elections.

Many councils conduct postal elections, in this instance voting material will be sent to the voters enrolled address unless a postal address is specified on the enrolment form.

The person in your care can apply to be registered as a General Postal Voter if they have a serious illness or infirmity, which prevents them attending a voting centre on election day. At the time of any election, postal voting material will be automatically sent to that person.

Need more information?

The VEC publishes resources to assist in explaining enrolment and voting to people with a disability:

- Easy English Guides (local council and State elections)
- Voting is for Everyone (video)
- A guide to voting in Victorian Elections (video) (Auslan / plain English / captions)

These resources are available online at **vec.vic.gov.au**, or can be ordered by calling 131 832 or emailing **education@vec.vic.gov.au**

NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE



People who are deaf or who have a hearing or speech impairment can contact the VEC via the National Relay Service (NRS). NRS users should phone **133 677** then ask for **03 8620 1100**.

Internet relay users should connect to the NRS via **relayservice.gov.au** and then ask for **03 8620 1100**.

Speak and Listen users (speech-to-speech relay) should phone **1300 555 727** then ask for **03 8620 1100**.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- በአማርኛ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic
- Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese
- Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دری 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka
- Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian
- ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean
- Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin
- فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian
- Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomaali 9209 0108 Somali
- Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
- Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other **non-English** languages 9209 0112



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

call **131 832**, or visit **vec.vic.gov.au**



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