

## Enrol to vote

### What does enrolment mean?

Enrolment means you can vote in elections.

### How do people enrol?

You give your name and address to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

You can do this online at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) Or you can fill out a form.

Your name and address are put on a list of names called the electoral roll. If you move house or change your name you need to tell the AEC.

The AEC automatically enrolls some people. They will write to tell you.

You cannot vote if your name is not on the electoral roll.

### Is it compulsory to enrol?

Yes, it is compulsory to enrol if you are:

- 18 years old or over, and
- An Australian citizen.

You can enrol early if you are between 16 and 18 years of age.

### Is it compulsory to vote?

Yes, you must vote if you are 18 or older.

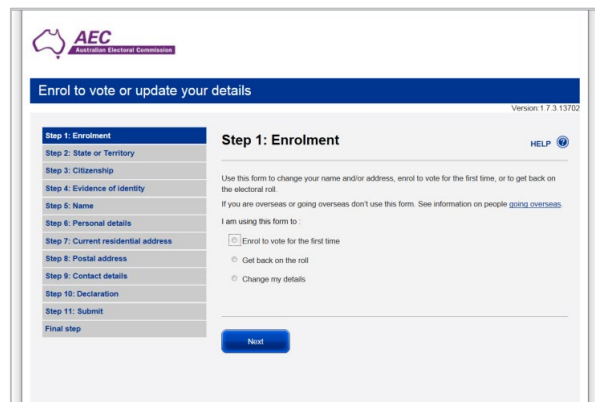
You cannot vote if you are under 18 even if you have enrolled.

### Why is it compulsory?

In Australia voting is a civic duty like paying taxes and going to school.

It is your right to choose the people who represent you in parliament.

Compulsory voting means everyone has a say about who is elected.




## History of enrolling to vote in Australia

Alfred Deakin, our second Prime Minister, introduced compulsory voting in Australia.

### Introduction of compulsory enrolment and voting laws in Australia

Area	Compulsory enrolment	Compulsory voting
Australia	1911	1924
Queensland	1914	1914
Victoria	1923	1926
New South Wales	1921	1928
South Australia	2009	1942
Tasmania	1930	1928
Western Australia	1919	1936

In the ACT and Northern Territory compulsory enrolment and voting started when the new governments were set up.

Indigenous Australians could enrol and vote in federal elections from 1949 but it was not compulsory until 1984.

### Can I see the electoral roll?

Yes, you can see the roll at Elections ACT or at Australian Electoral Commission offices.