

Enrolment and voting for people with no fixed address – information for agency staff

No fixed address enrolment

All Australian citizens aged 18 years or older are eligible to enrol to vote. Individuals who don't have access to safe and secure housing can enrol using a 'no fixed address' enrolment form. Enrolment for a person experiencing homelessness is not compulsory. Someone who enrolls using a 'no fixed address' form and does not vote will not be fined.

Talking with clients about voting

When you vote in an election, you get to have your say on who you think can best represent your views on the issues affecting you and the community. Voting in an election is one of the easiest and most powerful ways to have your voice heard. Look into what the candidates say about the issues you are interested in and choose who you believe can best represent your views.

How can a person check to see whether they are enrolled?

Enrolment details can be checked online at the Australian Electoral Commission's website, www.aec.gov.au or by calling (02) 6205 0033.

The electoral roll for an ACT Legislative Assembly election closes approximately 4 weeks before polling day. Any person who is not on the roll, on or before that date, will not be able to vote in the election.

How do you enrol?

Enrolment options if you are experiencing homelessness or living in temporary accommodation include:

No fixed address enrolment

If your client doesn't have access to safe and secure housing they can enrol as an [elector with no fixed address](#).

As an elector with no fixed address, they can enrol for the address where:

- They were last eligible to be enrolled (generally the place where they last lived for at least one month); or

- One of their next of kin is currently enrolled if they have not previously been eligible to be enrolled; or
- Where they were born, if neither of the above apply; or
- Where they have the closest connection if none of the above apply.

If they enrol as an elector with no fixed address and don't vote at an election, they won't be fined and their name will remain on the electoral roll.

Silent elector enrolment

If your client believes that having their address on the electoral roll will put them or their family's safety at risk, they can apply to become a [silent elector](#).

This involves having a statutory declaration signed.

Who can see the person's personal details once enrolled to vote?

If a person has enrolled using a 'no fixed address' form, only the name will appear on the roll, not the address.

If they have used a standard enrolment form, both the name and address will appear. A silent elector has only their name shown on the electoral roll, not their address.

The information your client provides is made available by law, to members of Parliament, political parties, approved medical researchers and public health screening programs, certain government agencies and other electoral authorities. The enrolment form explains this further.

What if the person has an outstanding fine/s from previous elections?

If the person received a voting fine in the past and did not pay it, it is important that they let Elections ACT know.

What if the person doesn't vote in an election and receives a letter in the mail asking for an explanation?

Call Elections ACT and explain that the person is experiencing homelessness and was unable to vote on polling day.

Where can I, or the person in my care, find important electoral information?

In an election year, Elections ACT develops a brochure that contains all the important electoral information required for each ACT Legislative Assembly election. The brochure is distributed through the mail to all households in the ACT, is available online at Elections ACT's website, is included in the *Canberra Times* on election day and is also available in audio format on the Elections ACT website and in ACT libraries.

An Easy English Guide is also available to assist people with low literacy levels. The guide provides key information about enrolment and voting in the ACT in a concise and

understandable way. Ideally, it would be read as a shared activity between the reader and someone such as a friend, family member or carer. This allows concepts to be explained and questions answered.

Some election materials are also translated into different languages to assist voters from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This includes the instruction screens for electronic voting.

Get involved

Elections ACT aims to ensure that everyone has access to the electoral process, regardless of their current living situation.

Elections ACT can provide:

- Information about the electoral process for agency workers;
- 'No fixed address' enrolment forms, the Easy English guide, posters and other information material to display at your agency; and
- Postal voting facilities.

Postal voting is available for anyone who is unable to attend a polling place. Applications for a postal vote can be made [online](#) at Elections ACT's website or by phoning (02) 6205 0033. An application for a postal vote can be made by the elector or by someone acting on behalf of the elector as long as the elector has authorised them to do so.

Need more information?

For all enquiries about enrolment and voting, visit the Election's ACT website www.elections.act.gov.au or call (02) 6205 0033.

To access no fixed address, silent elector or standard enrolment forms, visit the Australian Electoral Commission's website at www.aec.gov.au

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If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can contact Elections ACT through the [National Relay Service](#) (NRS). Call 13 36 77 and then ask for (02) 6205 0033. For more information, visit www.relayservice.gov.au