Why is voting important?

Voting is the way we choose who represents us in local, state, and federal governments.

Governments make decisions about every part of our lives from roads, to hospitals and schools, industry, farming, exports and imports, taxes and rates, environmental rules and protections, workplace conditions and basic wages, and the laws that shape our communities.

In a democracy with compulsory voting, each vote is equal, every voice is equal.

By voting, you are part of the decision; you are making a choice about how your community, state, or country functions. If you don't vote, you are relying on someone else to choose for you. Every vote has equal value in Australia.

Not voting also means you may be fined because voting is compulsory in Australia.

Make sure you are involved in decisions about your community by voting at every election.

> **" *Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it.* "**
>
> Susan B. Anthony

Does your vote make a difference?

Every vote counts! Here are some examples of why:

- 2020 State general election - the successful candidate in Bundaberg won by nine votes.
- 2020 local government elections – Napranum Mayoral – the second placed candidate was successful with only a *four-vote* lead following the distribution of preferences.
- 2020 local government elections – councillor position – before the distribution of preferences, three candidates were tied on 111 votes each!
- 2021 - councillor by-election in Barcoo Shire saw the successful candidate win by one vote.

Your vote counts at every election.

Need to enrol to vote or update your enrolment? Go to aec.gov.au/enrol.

To find out more about compulsory voting, read the information sheet: **Why is voting compulsory in Australia?**