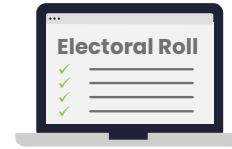


Direct enrolment and update

in Queensland

fact sheet



Enrolling to vote

It is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 and over to enrol and vote. Australian citizens are responsible for voting in federal, state and local government elections.

When you enrol, your name and address is added to the 'electoral roll' — the list of people who can vote in an election. You are required by law to keep your details on the electoral roll correct and up to date.

Eligibility requirements

It is compulsory to enrol and vote if you:

- are an Australian citizen or eligible British subject
- are aged 18 years or over
- have lived at your address for at least one month.



People aged 16 and 17 can enrol provisionally and receive a full voting entitlement on their 18th birthday.

If you believe someone should be **removed from the electoral roll**, please contact the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on 13 23 26 or at aec.gov.au.

Direct enrolment and update

The AEC administers federal elections and manages the Queensland electoral roll under a joint roll agreement with the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ).

The Federal Direct Enrolment and Update (FDEU) program is used to assist some Australians meet their enrolment obligations.

To do this the AEC can enrol you directly, without the need for you to complete an enrolment application.

The AEC gets your details from other government agencies, such as the Department of Transport, Centrelink, the Australian Tax Office and Australia Post.

However, it is ultimately up to each individual Australian to take action to enrol or update their enrolment.

The AEC will write to you and let you know if they intend to add your name and address to the electoral roll or update your details. They will send the letter to your last known address.

Your address will be public

If you are added to the electoral roll through the FDEU, you will be added as a general elector.

This means your address will be visible on the electoral roll. The electoral roll is available to the public. Anyone can visit the Electoral Commission of Queensland and look up details on the electoral roll.

Electors are required to vote at each election.

Direct enrolment and update in Qld

Other ways to enrol

You can enrol or update your details online at aec.gov.au.

Enrolment forms are also available at any Centrelink or AEC office.



Failure to vote

If you don't vote in a Queensland local or state election, the ECQ may send you an "apparent failure to vote" notice, asking you to provide your reason for not voting.

If you do not provide one you may receive a fine equal to one penalty unit (\$133.45 as of 1 July 2019). Failure to pay the fine will result in the penalty being referred to the State Penalties Enforcement Registry.

If your circumstances make it difficult to vote at a polling place or if it would be unsafe for you to have your address visible on the electoral roll, it is important to make sure you are enrolled under a special enrolment category that suits your circumstances.

Special enrolment categories

Silent elector

If you believe having your address shown on the electoral roll may put you or your family at risk, you can apply to be enrolled as a silent elector.

Your address will not appear on the electoral roll and you will receive your ballot paper in the mail.

No fixed address elector

If you are experiencing homelessness, or you are living in crisis or transitional accommodation, you can register as a no fixed address elector. Under this category you will *not* receive a penalty if you fail to vote at an election.

Special postal voter

If you cannot physically attend a polling place on election day you can apply to be enrolled as a special postal voter. You will receive your ballot paper in the mail.

To enrol under this category, you must meet the necessary criteria, some of which are below:

- reside at an address more than 20km from a polling booth
- registered as a silent elector
- unable to attend a polling booth due to religious beliefs
- unable to sign due to a physical incapacity.



Special category enrolment forms are available online at aec.gov.au or from your local AEC office.

For further information contact the Electoral Commission of Queensland on 1300 881 665 or visit the website at ecq.qld.gov.au.