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ALL ELECTION PARTICIPANTS

Conduct of campaign workers and media at polling places

Unless otherwise stated, all references to legislation are to the *Electoral Act 1992* (EA). The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your circumstances, you should seek independent legal advice.

There are laws relating to the conduct of people at polling places for a state election. Anyone campaigning near a polling place needs to be aware of the rules that apply to them.

A polling place includes a polling booth or another place at which voting takes place, such as a hospital or nursing home.

What rules apply to campaign workers at polling places?

Candidates and registered political parties may have campaign workers who interact with voters at polling places. Campaign workers must **not**:

- prevent the entry and exit of voters from polling places
- canvass for votes inside a polling place or within 6 metres of its entrance
- wear or display any campaign material (e.g. t-shirts, hats, badges) inside a polling place or within 6 metres of its entrance.

Campaign workers, other than scrutineers, may only enter a polling place to cast their own vote. Any campaign material must be covered or removed before entering the polling place.

Scrutineers are formally appointed by candidates to observe aspects of the election process. They are allowed to enter a polling place only to perform their functions as a scrutineer. For more information on the appointment and functions of scrutineers, please refer to <u>Fact sheet</u> 33 – Scrutineers.

Volunteers and workers must not campaign within 6 metres of the entrance to a polling place.

What are the rules for photographers or media?

Anyone arranging for photographers and/or media to visit a polling place should contact the ECQ in time for arrangements to be made with the relevant Supervisor.

The media and/or photographers must observe certain requirements as stipulated by the Returning Officer or Supervisor.

Photographers and members of the media or their equipment are not to hinder, inconvenience or delay any election staff or voters. The total secrecy of the vote must be maintained at all times. Only authorised persons may enter a polling place.

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More information



For further information

This fact sheet mainly refers to part 10, division 3 of the EA. The EA is available in full at legislation.gld.gov.au. Participants in the electoral process should ensure they understand their obligations under the EA.



RELATED FACT SHEETS

Fact sheet 1 – Authorisation of election matter Fact sheet 2 – Election signage at polling places

Fact sheet 33 – Scrutineers

Fact sheets can be found on the <u>ECQ website</u>.