

## DECLARED INSTITUTIONS

This fact sheet outlines what staff and residents of hospitals and facilities that have been registered with the Electoral Commission of Queensland as a declared institution can expect during an election.

### Voter assistance

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) provides a range of services to give Queensland voters every possible opportunity to have their say at the ballot box.

The ECQ assists those people who are in hospitals or facilities by visiting over 500 registered declared institutions throughout Queensland during the election period.

To qualify for registration the institution is required to have a reasonable number of high care residents.

### When will voting take place?

Voting at declared institutions will take place during early voting. The Returning Officer will contact the manager of each declared institution prior to the early voting period to ensure the most appropriate time to visit.

The Returning Officer will confirm the visit in writing to advise the date and time election staff will visit.

Legislation dictates that voting at a declared institution cannot commence until the Tuesday 11 days before election day.

### Who can vote at a declared institution?

This service is only available to residents of the declared institution. Staff and

visitors must find an alternative way to cast their vote.

### How can I vote at a declared institution?

There are two ways a voter can vote while in residence at a declared institution:

- At a static polling booth - for those residents who are mobile and are able to leave their bed.
- By utilising mobile polling – election staff visit those residents at their bedside who are not mobile.

Residents are entitled to ask election staff or scrutineers for their assistance to vote.

### Candidates

Candidates and their scrutineers are entitled to be present with election staff at declared institutions during vote taking. However they are not entitled to see how the elector votes, canvass for votes, disturb residents or the normal operation of the institution.

Poor behaviour by candidates or their scrutineers will be dealt with by election staff immediately.

### Where are declared institutions?

Declared institution information will be published on the ECQ website [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au) following the notice of election.

### More information

If you need more information relating to declared institutions, please contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing [ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au).