

**Submission
No 11**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2019 NSW STATE ELECTION

Organisation: Homelessness NSW

Date Received: 3 October 2019

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
NSW Parliament
Macquarie St
Sydney

Administration of the 2019 NSW State Election

Dear Committee

Homelessness NSW is a peak not for profit organisation that works with its members to prevent and reduce homelessness across NSW. Our members include small, locally based community organisations, multiservice agencies with a regional reach and large State-wide service providers.

We welcome the opportunity to provide a submission to this committee and their inquiry into the administration of the 2019 State Election.

Between the 2011 Census and the 2016 Census the number of people experiencing homelessness in NSW increased by 27%. There are now over 37,000 people experiencing homelessness in NSW.

Being homeless is usually being without. Without security, without privacy, without stability. Ensuring that people experiencing homelessness are not without a voice in vital civic participation should be an imperative of all governments.

Homelessness NSW has worked with the NSW Electoral Commission on ensuring that people experiencing homelessness have ready and easily understood information on voting, however there is a need for increased efforts in this regard.

A search on the website of the NSW Electoral Commission finds no response to either 'homeless' or 'homelessness'. A similar search on the Victorian Electoral Commission site finds a number of resources. Included in these are '*Being homeless doesn't make you voteless*' and a '*Homeless not voteless easy English guide*'. We have attached both documents for the Committee's perusal. We believe it would be useful for the NSW Electoral Commission to have similar information readily available on their site.

Prior to the recent Federal election Homelessness NSW worked together with the Australian Electoral Commission to increase availability to voting for rough sleepers. Part of this consisted of the AEC doing inreach to prominent homeless services. As part of this they had information available to staff and clients on how to enroll. Feedback from our member services was extremely positive. We would like to see the NSW Electoral Commission undertake a similar activity.

Many rough sleepers often have issues with keeping forms of identity on their person. This is mainly due to the very nature of rough sleeping. It is often difficult to maintain belongings secure. Homelessness NSW has also been advised by our members working with victims of family and domestic violence that it is not unknown for women to arrive at a refuge without identification. This is due to the urgency and subterfuge required to leave their house safely. As such Homelessness NSW believe that provisions forcing voters to provide identification as they vote could cause some people experiencing homelessness to be disenfranchised.

Once again, we thank the Committee for allowing us to raise these matters.

Contact in the first place can be made with Digby Hughes, Senior Policy and Research Officer at

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Tamara Sequeira

Acting CEO

Home » Enrolment » Special enrolment circumstances » Being Homeless Doesn't Make You Vote-less

SHARE

Being Homeless Doesn't Make You Vote-less

People without a permanent home have the same right to enrol and vote as every other Australian citizen.

Why should you enrol?

Voting is about having a say on who you think should represent you in Parliament.

You should vote for who you think will make the best decisions on the issues that are important to you including; housing, hospitals, public transport, employment and education.

In order to vote, you must be enrolled.

How do you enrol?

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

No Fixed Address enrolment

If you don't have access to safe and secure housing you can enrol as an elector with No fixed address.

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

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

- one of your next of kin is currently enrolled if you have not previously been eligible to be enrolled or
- where you were born, if neither of the above apply or
- where you have the closest connection if none of the above apply.

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

Homeless not Voteless - Victorian Electoral Commission



Silent elector enrolment

If you believe that having your address on the electoral roll will put your personal safety or your family's safety at risk, you can apply to become a Silent elector.

This involves having a statutory declaration signed.

Keeping your enrolment up-to-date

It's important to keep your enrolment details up to date so you remain eligible to vote. If you find a

permanent place to live, you will need to re-enrol using a standard [Enrolment form](#) (PDF, 616kB).

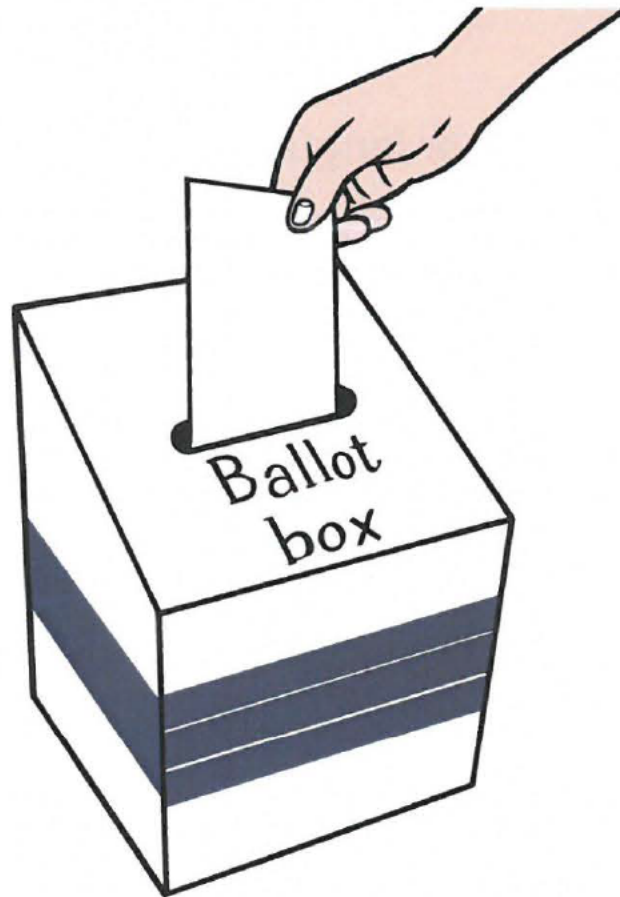
Assisting clients experiencing homelessness to enrol and vote

If you are a service provider working with people experiencing homelessness, the VEC runs a community program called [Homeless not Voteless](#). This program provides training to homelessness workers and helps people experiencing homelessness to enrol and vote.



Easy English

Homeless not voteless



Victorian Electoral Commission

You can get this information in different ways



Auslan

Contact the Victorian Electoral Commission
for a DVD in Auslan.



Other languages

Read page 12 to 13.



Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource
Centre helped the Victorian Electoral Commission
write this Easy English book. April 2016.

For more information about Scope's
Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre
phone 03 9843 2000 or go to www.scopevic.org.au

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

What is in this book?

About this book.....	4
What is voting?	5
Why should I vote?	5
Do you want to vote?.....	6
Voting is secret	7
Fines	8
How to enrol	9
Where to vote	10
My information	11
How do I get this information in other languages?.....	12
More information.....	14

About this book

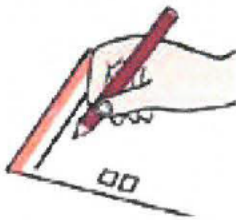
This book is for people

- who are homeless

or

- do not have a secure place to live.

It is about



- enrolling to vote



- voting in elections



- voting fines.

What is voting?

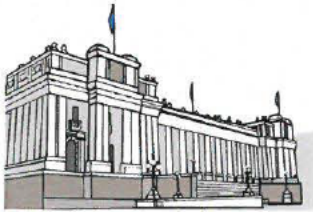


An election is when you make a choice about who is in charge.

To make a choice you need to vote.

All votes are equal.

Voting is your human right.



Why should I vote?

You can help choose who is in government.

The government makes decisions about your community. For example, about

- health
- schools
- housing.

Australia has 3 types of government.

There is the

- Federal government
- State government
- local council.

Do you want to vote?

18+

You can vote if you are

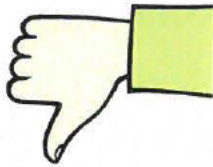
- an Australian citizen
- and**
- aged 18 years or older.



An Australian citizen is a person who was

- born in Australia
- or**
- born overseas but now lives in Australia.

This person has made a special promise to follow the laws in Australia. This person has become an Australian citizen.



No. You do not want to vote

If you are homeless you do **not** have to enrol.

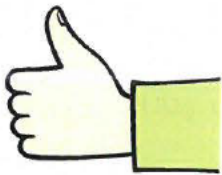
You do **not** have to vote.

You will **not** get a fine.



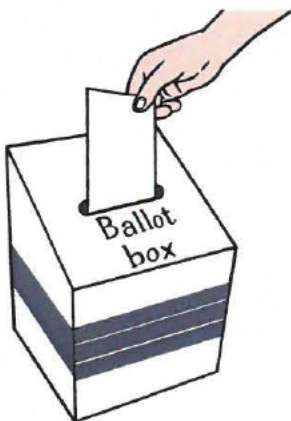
You are not sure

Go to page 5 Why should I vote?



Yes. You want to vote

You need to enrol. This means you need to put your name on a list.



Voting is secret

You do not have to show anyone your vote.

Fines



If you have never enrolled or voted

You will **not** be fined.

We want everyone to enrol to vote.



What if I have a fine for not voting?

Do not panic. Do not ignore it.

- Call the Victorian Electoral Commission

Ask a community worker to help you.

How to enrol



To enrol get a **no fixed address form** from

- a community worker

or

- the Victorian Electoral Commission.

You do not need a home address for the form.



Ask someone you know to watch you fill in the form.

For example, a

- friend
- family member
- community worker.

This person needs to be enrolled to vote.

You do not need ID to enrol



Someone who is enrolled to vote in federal elections can confirm your identity.



If you move into a permanent house you need a different form.

Talk to your community worker.



Where to vote

You may be able to vote at a homeless service you use. Ask a community worker about this.

My information



When you enrol your name goes on a list. This list is called an **electoral roll**.

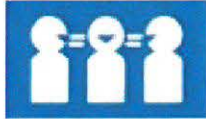
If you are homeless your **address** will **not** go on the electoral roll.

Who can see the electoral roll?

Anyone can view the electoral roll.

If you enrol using a **no fixed address form** only your name will appear on the roll.

How do I get this information in other languages?



Telephone the number you need

አማርኛ (Amharic)

የበለጠ ዝርዝር መረጃ እና በአስተርጓሚ እርዳታ ከፈለጉ በተለይ (03) 9209 0190 መደወል።

عربي (Arabic)

إذا أردت المزيد من المعلومات التفصيلية، وبحاجة للإستعانة بمترجم شفهي، يُرجى الاتصال على الرقم (03) 9209 0100.

Bosanski (Bosnian)

Ako su vam potrebne detaljnije informacije i pomoć prevodioca, nazovite (03) 9209 0191.

中文繁體 (Cantonese)

如果需要詳細資料和傳譯員協助，請電 (03) 9209 0101。

Hrvatski (Croatian)

Ako su vam potrebne detaljnije informacije i pomoć tumača, nazovite (03) 9209 0102.

دری (Dari)

اگر به معلومات مفصلتر و کمک ترجمان ضرورت دارید، به تيلفون شماره (03) 9209 0193 زنگ بزنيد.

Dinka

Na koor yin lek juéc cī kek cuiir ku kuɔony de athok /raan ë thok waaric, yuöpä (03) 9209 0119.

Ελληνικά (Greek)

Αν χρειάζεστε πιο λεπτομερείς πληροφορίες και τη βοήθεια διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνήστε στο (03) 9209 0103.

Italiano (Italian)

Se hai bisogno di informazioni più particolareggiate e dell'assistenza di un interprete, telefona al (03) 9209 0104.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការព័ត៌មានលម្អិតថែមទៀតហើយឱងជំនួយពីអ្នកបកប្រែភាសា, សូមទូរស័ព្ទលេខ (03) 9209 0192។

For Information in all other languages telephone 9209 0112

한국어 (Korean)

더 자세한 내용을 원하시거나 통역 서비스가 필요하시면 (03)9209 0194번으로 연락하시기 바랍니다.

Македонски (Macedonian)

Ако сакате подетални информации и помош со преведувач јавете се на (03) 9209 0105.

中文简体 (Mandarin)

如果需要详细资料和传译员协助，请电 (03) 9209 0106。

فارسی (Persian)

اگر اطلاعات مفصل تر یا کمک یک مترجم را می خواهید به شماره (03)9209 0195 تلفن کنید.

Русский (Russian)

Если вам нужна более подробная информация и помощь переводчика, то позвоните по номеру (03) 9209 0196.

Српски (Serbian)

Ако су вам потребне детаљније информације и помоћ тумача, позовите (03) 9209 0107.

Soomaali (Somali)

Haddii aad u baahan tahay macluumaad faahfaahsan oo intaas ka badan iyo caawimada mutarjumka, wac (03)9209 0108.

Español (Spanish)

Si necesita información más detallada y la asistencia de un intérprete, llame al teléfono (03) 9209 0109.

Türkçe (Turkish)

Daha ayrıntılı bilgi edinmek istemeniz ve bir çevirmene gerek duymanız durumunda, (03)9209 0110 numaralı telefonu arayın.

Việt-ngữ (Vietnamese)

Nếu quý vị cần thêm thông tin chi tiết và sự giúp đỡ của thông dịch viên, hãy điện thoại số (03) 9209 0111.



More information



Ask your community worker



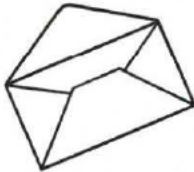
Contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.



Website www.vec.vic.gov.au

Email info@vec.vic.gov.au



Postal address

Victorian Electoral Commission,
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000



Phone

131 832

+ 61 3 8620 1100 (from outside Victoria)

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment phone National Relay Service 133 677 and ask for 03 8620 1100.



For speech-to-speech relay phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 03 8620 1100.



© State of Victoria (Victorian Electoral Commission) 2016.

This work, Easy English Guide, is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Derivatives 4.0 licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/>).

You are free to share this work under that licence, on the condition that you do not change any content and you credit the State of Victoria (Victorian Electoral Commission) as author and comply with the other licence terms. The licence does not apply to any branding, including Government logos or the Easy English icon.

Other Easy English Guides available from the VEC:

- Vote in Local Council Attendance Elections
- Vote in Local Council Postal Elections
- Vote in the Melbourne City Council Postal Elections
- Vote in Victorian State Elections



Address all enquiries to the Victorian Electoral Commission,
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000



© State of Victoria (Victorian Electoral Commission) 2016.

This work, Easy English Guide, is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Derivatives 4.0 licence

(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/>). You are free

to share this work under that licence, on the condition that you

do not change any content and you credit the State of Victoria

(Victorian Electoral Commission) as author and comply with

the other licence terms. The licence does not apply to any

branding, including Government logos or the Easy English icon.

