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Session 5: Planning to vote

You will need

One or more copies of the Easy English Guide **How to Vote at a Polling Place** and **How to Vote by Mail**. These are written in a way that is easy to understand. You can download them from the AEC website, [Easy English Guides](http://www.aec.gov.au/About_AEC/Publications/easy-english) (http://www.aec.gov.au/About_AEC/Publications/easy-english), or request copies by phoning 13 23 26.

You will also need to photocopy the Election plan from either the how to vote at a polling place or how to vote by mail Easy English Guides, depending on the method your participants will use to vote. Each participant will need their own copy of the relevant plan.

If preparing for a state, territory or local government election, contact your state or territory electoral body for information and resources. You will find links at www.elections.gov.au

Activities

Help participants to be organised to cast their vote in an upcoming election by working through the Election plan. The activity sheet has space to write each person's practical plans for the election. The plans for voting at a polling place or by mail have different activities.

Group discussion

1. Who can help you in a polling place? What can they help with?
Key Idea: You can either take someone with you to help fill in your ballot papers or you can ask a polling official to help you.
2. Do you have to vote on election day?
Key Idea: Voting and enrolling is compulsory in Australia and all citizens who are eligible to vote are required to do so.
3. How can you vote before election day?
Key Idea: Yes you can vote before election day by casting a pre-poll vote. There is more information about this available on the AEC website.

4. What questions will you be asked by the polling official before you are given your ballot papers?

Key Idea: three questions are:

1. What is your full name?
2. Where do you live?
3. Have you voted before in this election?

5. Why does the polling official need to know these things?

Key Idea: These questions are asked so the polling official can mark your name off the electoral roll and to ensure that you are only voting once.

Notes for facilitator

Use the **How to Vote at a Polling Place** and **How to Vote by Mail** [Easy English Guides](#) as a reference to help participants and their support people.

The Easy English Guide **How to Vote at a Polling Place** mentions how-to-vote cards. This topic will be discussed in more detail in session 6. This may also be relevant for postal voters because candidates distribute how-to-vote material in other ways.