



DEMOCRACY

Central Senate Scrutiny module



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

MODULE

Central Senate Scrutiny



This interactive game guides learners through the process of checking Senate ballot papers for formality after election night. It introduces the Central Senate Scrutiny (CSS) where Senate ballot papers are electronically scanned and processed. Through a real-world scenario, election officials demonstrate each step of the procedure. Players discover how Senate ballot papers are electronically scanned and counted, including how they are verified using electronic scanning 'double blind' checks. With DemocraBot as their guide, learners step into the role of analyst to explore and understand the scrutiny process firsthand.



Learning outcomes

By the end of the first module, students will:

- Recall that security practices of Central Senate Scrutiny impact integrity and transparency of the election.
- Recall the importance of integrity and security of ballot papers



Key takeaways

- **Every task matters:** From scanning to verification, each stage of the Senate ballot paper process plays a vital role in maintaining electoral integrity.
- **Security matters:** Robust security measures at Central Senate Scrutiny help ensure that the election process remains transparent and trustworthy.
- **Ballot paper integrity is essential:** Protecting the integrity and security of ballot papers is critical to upholding the democratic principles and public confidence in election outcomes.



Supplementary links with AEC resources

Links to other AEC education and information resources:

- [The Senate count: Check, then check again](#)
- [The Senate counting process](#)
- [Central Senate Scrutiny \(FAQs\)](#)



Key questions

1. Senate ballot papers are checked and counted twice. What are the two ways?
Answer: Electronically scanned and checked by a computer and then by a human operator. If there is a difference between the computer's check and the human operator's check, then it goes to another human operator.

