



DEMOCRACY

Enrolment module



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

Enrolment



This module introduces students to DemocraCity and explains the importance and process of enrolment.



In the game, students are at the counter of an AEC information stall, and are active participants in DemocraCity, helping community members determine their eligibility to enrol and how to enrol.



Learning outcomes

By the end of the activities, students will:

- Identify the eligibility for enrolment in Australia.
- Explain different scenarios for enrolling.
- Outline the rules and methods for enrolling and updating enrolment details.
- Recall that voters need to be enrolled to vote in a federal election.



Suggested extension knowledge and understanding activities

- Use the [Enrolment quiz questions](#) to test their enrolment knowledge with the answers available on the [Enrolment quiz answers](#) sheet.
- Use the [Enrolment scenario recall PowerPoint](#) or [Enrolment scenario cards](#) for students to recall different community members options for enrolment. Read the [guide](#) on how to use these.



Suggested extension application activity:

UNIT OF WORK: Your vote helps shape Australia.

The unit includes these suggested learning activities:

- As a lead-in to a classroom/school election, provide an opportunity for students to enrol to be able to vote.
- Consider representation of the population through enrolment. If people don't enrol, they can't have their say. Consider whether representation is important and why?





Supplementary links with AEC resources

Links to other AEC education and information resources:

- [Democracy Rules Activity 5: Your vote, your choice p122](#)
- Get Voting: [Voter list template generator](#)
- AEC Factsheet: [A guide to enrolling and voting](#)

Video resources:

- **English:** [Why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- **Auslan:** [Enrol to vote](#)

First Nations Languages:

- [Alyawarra – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Anindilyakwa – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Arrernte – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Burarra – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Kriol – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Kukatja – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Martu – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Murrinh Patha – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Ndjebanna – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Ngaayatiarra – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Nyangumarta – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Pitjanjatjarra – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Pintupi Luritja – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Tiwi – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Yolngu Matha – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Walmajarri – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Walpiri – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)
- [Waramungu – why it's important to enrol and vote](#)



Key questions

1. What do you need to be able to enrol to vote?
Answer: 16 years old and an Australian citizen.
2. Who can vote in a federal election?
Answer: Anyone who is 18 years old and enrolled to vote.



Your vote helps shape Australia - Understanding enrolment.



DEMOCRACY MODULE

Enrolment



KEY CONCEPT

Citizenship



RELATED CONCEPTS

- **Power** - who holds it, how it's shared, and exercised through voting.
- **Participation** - civic responsibilities and barriers to engagement.
- **Representation in our democracy** - electing officials to represent the Australian people.



Overarching questions

What role does enrolment play in ensuring fair and inclusive participation in Australia's democracy?

Inquiry questions:

Factual – What is the process of enrolling to vote in Australia?

Conceptual – How does enrolment impact democratic participation and representation?



Learning outcomes

By the end of the activities, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of civic systems and electoral processes.
- Investigate enrolment across historical and societal contexts.
- Communicate understanding through advocacy pieces (E.g. campaign materials, persuasive writing).
- Reflect on civic responsibilities and propose solutions to improve voter enrolment rates.



Suggested extension learning experiences and activities:

- **Opening activity:** As a lead-in to a classroom/school election, provide opportunities for students to enrol to be able to vote. [See Enrolment for class election](#) for guided questions.
- Consider representation of the population through enrolment.
 - ↳ **Take it further:** Ask students to design a campaign which encourages enrolment (digital posters, speeches, social media). See [Representation of the population activity](#) for more details.

Your vote helps shape Australia: Understanding enrolment - Suggested assessment rubric

Criteria	Level 1-2	Level 3-4	Level 5-6	Level 7-8
Criterion A: Knowing and understanding	Demonstrates limited knowledge of enrolment processes or civic systems.	Demonstrates basic knowledge with some relevant examples.	Demonstrates clear understanding supported by relevant examples and connections.	Demonstrates thorough knowledge with detailed understanding and insightful connections.
Criterion B: Investigating	Investigates with minimal focus or clarity; sources may be irrelevant or unclear.	Investigates with some focus; uses sources with partial relevance or analysis.	Investigates effectively using relevant sources; shows sound reasoning.	Investigates thoroughly, critically evaluates sources, and provides compelling analysis of enrolment issues.
Criterion C: Communicating	Communication lacks clarity or structure; message may be difficult to follow.	Communicates with some clarity and structure; message gets across but inconsistently.	Communicates effectively with clear structure and engaging presentation.	Communicates with clarity, creativity, and persuasive impact; presentation is compelling and well-executed.
Criterion D: Thinking critically	Offers limited reflection; conclusions may be unsupported or superficial.	Reflects with some depth; conclusions show basic understanding.	Reflects thoughtfully; conclusions are well-reasoned and supported.	Reflects critically and creatively; conclusions demonstrate deep understanding and propose innovative civic solutions.





WORKSHEET

Enrolment quiz

Question 1: What is enrolling to vote?

- A. It is an act of signing up for school or extra-curricular classes.
- B. It is an activity to allow you to register for a democracy sausage on election day.
- C. It is a registration process for you to gain a licence to drive when you are old enough.
- D. It is a registration process to ensure you can vote at an election.

Question 2: How can you enrol?

- A. You can visit the Australian Taxation website and enrol online.
- B. You can use the 'MyGov' app and enrol online.
- C. Attend a police station and have a character interview.
- D. Online at aec.gov.au/enrol or you can visit any AEC office for an enrolment form.

Question 3: What do you do if you move house?

- A. Check your neighbours know which voting division they can vote in.
- B. Every time you move or change your name, you need to update your details with the AEC.
- C. Inform your local post office of your new details so they can change your enrolment for you.
- D. Tell your local police station your new details, obtain a paper form, provide your ID and ask them to witness your form.

Question 4: If you are an American and an Australian permanent resident, but not a citizen can you enrol?

- A. Yes, American permanent residents have voting rights in federal elections in Australia.
- B. No, only Australian citizens can enrol.
- C. Yes, American permanent residents can enrol for federal elections, but not state or local elections.
- D. Yes, American permanent residents can vote in all elections in Australia.

Question 5: What age can you enrol?

- A. At 14 and 15 years old, as you will be ready to vote as you near completion of secondary school.
- B. At 12 and 13 years old, as this age is the transition to secondary school.
- C. At 10-12 years old as you have already voted in a class election and are in Senior Primary School, ready to enrol.
- D. If you are 16 or 17, you can enrol so when you turn 18, you will be ready to vote.

Question 6: You are required by law to enrol if you are...

- A. 15 years old and an Australian citizen.
- B. A permanent Australian resident only and 18 years old.
- C. A dual citizen of any country and 15 years old.
- D. 18 years of age or older and an Australian citizen.

Question 7: Why is enrolment important?

- A. Because it means you will get a democracy sausage on voting day.
- B. It ensures members get to vote in the House of Representatives.
- C. It ensures Senators can scrutinise legislation.
- D. It ensures that every eligible citizen has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process by having their voice heard through voting.

Question 8: Why is it important to keep your enrolment up to date?

- A. So you can vote online at the next federal election.
- B. So you can vote in the next school election.
- C. To ensure that you are eligible to obtain your driving licence.
- D. To maintain an accurate electoral roll for the AEC which means every eligible citizen is able to vote in the electorate to which they're entitled.

Question 9: Is it compulsory to enrol?

- A. No, enrolment and voting in elections is optional in Australia according to the Australian Constitution, the rule book for the federal government.
- B. Yes, it is compulsory for all Australian citizens who have turned 18 and have lived at their residential address for a period of one month to enrol.
- C. Yes, it is compulsory for Australian citizens, who have turned 15 and living with their parents/guardians.
- D. No, enrolment is only compulsory for people interested in politics.

Question 10: Does the AEC protect personal enrolment information for people on the electoral roll?

- A. Yes, the AEC takes commitment to privacy seriously. It protects personal information on the electoral roll under the Privacy Act 1988.
- B. The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) administers the SPAM Act, and they maintain personal enrolment information for the AEC electoral roll, ensuring privacy.
- C. By law, the AEC is required to share all personal information with anyone that asks for it, this includes police officers.
- D. Disclosure to political parties is expected by politicians for any texts to anyone at election time.

Final score:

/10



ACTIVITY

Enrolment quiz answers

Question	Answer
1. What is enrolling to vote?	D: It is a registration process to ensure you can vote at an election.
2. How can you enrol?	D: Online at www.aec.gov.au/enrol or you can visit any AEC office for an enrolment form.
3. What do you do if you move house?	B: Every time you move or change your name, you need to update your details with the AEC.
4. If you are an American and an Australian permanent resident, but not a citizen can you enrol?	B: No, only Australian citizens can enrol.
5. What age can you enrol?	D: If you are 16 or 17, you can enrol so when you turn 18, you will be ready to vote.
6. You are required by law to enrol if you are...	D: 18 years of age or older and you are an Australian citizen.
7. Why is enrolment important?	D: It ensures that every eligible citizen has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process by having their voice heard through voting.
8. Why is it important to keep your enrolment up to date?	D: To maintain an accurate electoral roll for the AEC which means every eligible citizen is able to vote in the electorate to which they're entitled.
9. Is it compulsory to enrol?	B: Yes, it is compulsory for all Australian citizens who have turned 18 and have lived at their residential address for a period of one month to enrol.
10. Does the AEC protect personal enrolment information for people on the electoral roll?	A: Yes, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) takes commitment to privacy seriously. It protects personal information on the electoral roll under the Privacy Act 1988.





ACTIVITY

Enrolment scenario activity

This activity provides an opportunity for students to work together to practice identifying different enrolment eligibility situations.



Materials:

- [Enrolment scenario recall PowerPoint](#) (located under 'Classroom resources' on the DemocraCity homepage).
- Optional: Enrolment scenario cards [Enrolment scenario cards](#).



Teacher Preparation:

- Display PowerPoint slide 2 for students to see the different enrolment scenarios.
- Optional: Cut scenarios into cards.



Task:

- Students are to problem solve 'What should the community member do?' with the provided scenarios. Use PowerPoint Slide 2 – Enrolment Scenarios (or provide scenario cards cut and trimmed) for students for problem solving.
- After students problem solve the scenarios, go through the solutions together using PowerPoint slide 3 and the following 'Answer sheet' overleaf.

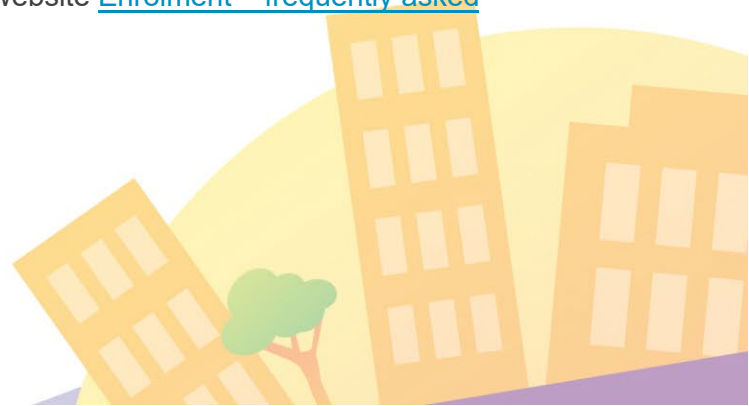


Going further

- Discuss: 'Why do you think the AEC provides different enrolment categories for members of the public?'
- Example: Enrolment for silent electors, prisoners and voters with no fixed address [Special enrolment options - Australian Electoral Commission](#)

Additional Information

The AEC provides enrolment FAQs for the public. If any specific enrolment questions arise in classroom activity, you may find the answers on the website [Enrolment – frequently asked questions - Australian Electoral Commission](#).





Suraj

I am in my first year at university and am going to be 18 before the next election.

What should I do?



Izzy

I am an American citizen and a permanent Australian resident. I don't plan on becoming a citizen any time soon though.

Can I enrol for the next federal election?



Tyler

I have just moved house.

What should I do?

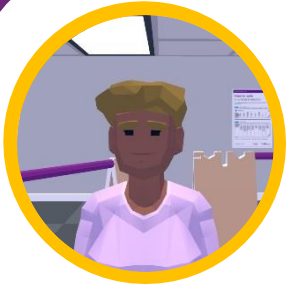


Madison

I am 16 years old and a dual citizen, Australian and American.

What should I do before the next federal election?





Bailey

My dad works as a policeman, and he does not want people to know our home address.

How should I enrol?



RJ

I have an Australian passport, and I am 17 years old.

What should I do?



Sinead

I am a new Australian, I have just become a citizen. I am 21 years old.

What should I do?





Enrolment scenario answer sheet

Scenario	Answer	More information
I am in my first year at university and am going to be 18 before the next election. What should I do?	Enrol	By enrolling before the next election you can make sure you're eligible to vote in that election.
I am an American citizen and a permanent Australian resident. I don't plan on becoming a citizen any time soon though. Can I enrol for the next federal election?	No, I cannot enrol	To enrol and vote in Australian federal elections you must be 18 years old and an Australian citizen.
I have just moved house. What should I do?	Update my enrolment	It's important to update your enrolment details each time your situation changes to make sure you're able to vote in your correct electorate and your vote counts.
I am 16 years old and a dual citizen, Australian and American. What should I do before the next federal election?	Enrol	As an Australian citizen you have the right and the responsibility to enrol and vote in federal elections.
My dad works as a policeman, and he does not want people to know our home address. How should I enrol?	Enrol as a silent voter	You can apply to be enrolled as a silent elector through the AEC website if you believe that having your address shown on the publicly available electoral roll could put your personal safety, or your family's safety, at risk.
I have an Australian passport, and I am 17 years old. What should I do?	Enrol	As an Australian citizen you have the right and the responsibility to enrol and vote in federal elections. By enrolling at 17 you are ready to vote whenever an election is called once you turn 18.
I am a new Australian, I have just become a citizen. I am 21 years old. What should I do?	Enrol	As a new Australian citizen you can enrol now so you are ready to vote whenever an election is called.





ACTIVITY

Enrolment activity for class election

Below is a suggestion for an opening activity to discuss enrolling to vote and to open enrolment for your class election. You will need to determine the cutoff time for enrolment – the close of rolls. After this time, new enrolments can't be accepted onto the electoral roll, and students will not be able to vote in your class election.

This provides useful opportunities for the class to explore the idea of representation, either before close of rolls to encourage enrolment or after the election when discussing the results.



Enrolment Guide

The AEC has enrolment guidelines to help voters to enrol to vote on the AEC website at [Enrol to vote - Australian Electoral Commission](https://www.aec.gov.au/enrol-to-vote).

You can decide the enrolment guidelines appropriate for your class election. This might include students being a member of your class and being a particular age.

Messaging for students

Just like in federal elections, to vote in our class election you will need to enrol. Enrolling to vote places your name on a list – the electoral roll – which means you can then have your say in the next election.

Messaging for students

Rolls are open now for enrolment but close at

If you are not enrolled by the time the roll closes, you will not be able to vote in our election.



Going further: guided questions

- If you don't enrol, should you still have a say in the election outcome?
- What might happen if only a small group of students enrol – does the result of the election truly represent the class?
- How could low enrolment affect the fairness and transparency of a class election?





ACTIVITY

Representation of the population: enrolment activity

This activity provides information and guided questions about enrolment and representation in Australia's democracy.

You may like to have a class discussion, small group discussion and sharing, or individual responses which can be shared.

Activity

To vote in Australian elections you need to enrol. If you don't enrol, you miss your opportunity to have your say in decisions that may impact you.



Consider

- If people only from a particular age group, demographic or geographical area enrol, what would that mean for representation in our democracy?
- Who is represented and, conversely, who isn't?

If you've planned a class election requiring enrolment, you could relate the concept of representation there. People who either didn't enrol or who missed the 'close of rolls' aren't represented in the class decision.

- Why is this a problem?
- How might this impact the results of an election?
- What can be done to encourage participation in enrolling and voting?



Going further

Ask students to design a campaign which encourages people to enrol. They can present their findings and 'campaign' in the mode of their choice e.g. digital posters, social media post or reel, or a speech. You could ask them to consider:

- How does voter enrolment impact democratic representation and equity?
- What are common enrolment barriers to voter enrolment for different groups (e.g. young people, First Nations communities, people with disability)?
- What motivates different demographic groups to take action?
- How can a campaign be designed to be culturally responsive and accessible?
- Which communication methods are most effective for reaching target audiences?

