
The Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) is committed to providing the most appropriate services to help all eligible Western Australians participate in the democratic process.

The right to vote is a fundamental underlying principle of our democratic system of government. Where possible it is important to discuss voting with any eligible citizen who you consider may be capable of voting and understanding what is involved.

Need more information?

For enquiries about voting at State or local government elections, visit the WAEC's website (elections.wa.gov.au) or call 13 63 06.

For your voting options at a Commonwealth election, contact the Australian Electoral Commission on 13 23 26.

Western Australian Electoral Commission

Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841

Enquiry Line: 13 63 06 (WA callers only)

Phone: (08) 9214 0400

Fax: (08) 9226 0577

Email: waec@waec.wa.gov.au

Internet: elections.wa.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)

TTY: 133 677 then ask for 08 9214 0400

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727 then ask for 08 9214 0400

Internet relay: Connect to the NRS (www.relayservice.com.au) then ask for 08 9214 0400

Enrolment and Voting

Information for families and carers of people with a cognitive disability



ENROLMENT

Who must enrol to vote?

Commonwealth and Western Australian State laws require Australian citizens who are 18 years of age or over, and who have lived at their present address for at least a month, to enrol to vote for Commonwealth and State elections.

A person with a mental or cognitive disability capable of enrolling and voting must still do so.

Enrolment for State elections means that you are automatically enrolled for local government elections.

Who can determine if someone cannot understand the nature and significance of becoming enrolled?

If a registered medical practitioner is of the opinion that a person is of unsound mind and is incapable of understanding the nature and significance of enrolment and voting then they do not have to enrol.

Ongoing cognitive disability

If a person does not have the capacity to understand the nature and significance of enrolment and voting they can be removed from the electoral roll and disqualified from voting.

How can a person in my care check to see whether they are enrolled?

Enrolment details can be checked on the WAEC's website (waec.wa.gov.au) or by calling 13 63 06.

What can you do if you consider a person in your care, who is enrolled, no longer sufficiently understands the nature and significance of enrolment and voting?

Obtain the required form from the WAEC by calling 13 63 06. Return the completed form and a medical certificate to the WAEC at GPO Box F316, Perth WA 6841. The elector will be then removed from Commonwealth, State and local government rolls.

What can you do if you consider a person in your care sufficiently understands the enrolment and voting system but they are not enrolled?

Enrolment forms can be downloaded at www.waec.gov.au or you can call 13 63 06 to have an enrolment form sent to you or the person in your care. Enrolment forms can also be picked up from an Electoral Commission office or any post office.

After completing this form, the person will be eligible to vote for all Commonwealth, State and local government elections.

Are there any penalties for someone who should have enrolled in the past?

The elector will not be fined if they have failed to enrol in the past.

VOTING

Who must vote?

Voting in Commonwealth and State elections is compulsory for those who are on the electoral roll. For local government elections, voting is not compulsory.

Can a person in your care receive assistance to vote?

Yes. Families and carers and all staff at voting locations are able to accompany and assist electors. Alternatively, electors may be eligible to register and use Technology Assisted Voting (iVote) using the internet or touch tone telephone from the convenience of their own home or from any location.

What if the person in my care has a physical difficulty in attending a voting location?

The elector may be eligible to vote using Technology Assisted Voting (iVote). iVote is a form of voting using the internet or touch tone telephone from your home or from any location. For further details visit: elections.wa.gov.au/ivote or telephone 1300 6 iVote (1300 64 86 83).

Alternatively, the person in your care can apply to be registered as a General Postal Voter. The carer of a seriously ill or infirm person who is not in hospital can also apply to be registered as a General Postal Voter. At the time of any election, postal voting material will be automatically sent to that person.