



Electoral Education Centre

State government

What happens in a polling place?

When you arrive to vote at a polling place, you will see a lot of people performing different tasks to make sure you can exercise your right to vote.

Outside the polling place, you may see posters and banners for different political parties or candidates and people handing out how to vote cards.

These people are canvassers. The how to vote cards are instructions on how to complete your ballot paper to support the candidate or party they represent. You do not have to accept a how to vote card, or fill out your ballot paper according to the card, unless you want to.

When you arrive at the polling place entrance, there may be a queuing controller who will direct you to the next available issuing officer.

There are two types of issuing officer in each polling place, an ordinary issuing officer and a declaration issuing officer.

The ordinary issuing officer marks electors off the roll and issues ballot papers for electors who are voting in the district for which they are enrolled. The officer will ask three questions:

1. What is your name?
2. What is your address?
3. Have you voted in this election before?

Once your name has been crossed off the roll, you will be given your ballot papers.

The declaration issuing officer issues ballot papers to electors who are voting outside the district for which they are enrolled, or if the elector cannot be marked off the roll but believes they are entitled to vote. An elector may not be able to be marked off the roll may be because the elector's name:

- is already marked off the roll
- is being challenged by a scrutineer
- does not appear on the roll.

If you are issued a declaration vote, you will be given an envelope to put your ballot papers in and directed to use a special ballot box. After polling closes, each envelope is checked and the elector's name must be located on the roll before the votes can be included in the count.

After you have been issued your ballot papers, you will be directed to the voting screens where you can complete your vote in private. You can ask for help at any time.

When you have completed your ballot papers, place them in the ballot box. The ballot box guard will be there to make sure all the votes are put into the correct box and are secure.

Once you have put your ballot papers in the ballot box, you have finished!