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The young and moving missing from the electoral roll

In the continuing search for 1.2 million Australians missing from the electoral roll, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) released information today indicating just who in Australia has the greatest chance of risking their vote in the next election.

Electoral Commissioner, Ed Killesteyn explained that Australians aged 18 to 34 years or anyone who has moved house in the last three years, have the greatest likelihood of not being on the electoral roll.

“The fact is the younger you are the less likely you are to be on the electoral roll, with young people aged 18-24 years accounting for nearly one third of the 1.2 million eligible Australians missing from the electoral roll,” he said.

Breakdown of the 1.2 m missing eligible electors by age group:

Age Group	Missing	Approx. %	Age Group	Missing	Approx. %
18 – 24 years	Over 370,000	30%	45 – 54 years	Over 170,000	14%
25 – 34 years	Over 318,000	25%	55 – 64 years	Around 86,000	7%
35 – 44 years	Over 250,000	20%	65+ years	Around 55,000	4%

Mr Killesteyn also said if you’ve moved in the last couple of years and haven’t updated your address on the electoral roll, that you run the greatest risk of being removed from the roll, and substantial numbers of Australians aged 25-44 years may be in this category.

Over the coming weeks the AEC is undertaking one of its largest mailouts this year, sending over 843,000 letters with enrolment forms to where we think many of these missing eligible Australians might be living.

“While this is a significant mailout it won’t reach everyone who is missing, or everybody who has recently turned eighteen or moved address, so I urge any Australian who needs to act on their enrolment to do it now, so you don’t miss out on having your say on election day,” Mr Killesteyn said.

“An enhanced interactive online enrolment form is now available on the AEC website and australia.gov.au, making the online completion more streamlined than ever. While you still need to print out and sign the form, it is a first step towards modernising the enrolment process to meet growing expectations among the public to complete business online,” Mr Killesteyn said.

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