

# Enrolling and voting while in prison

Enrolment is compulsory for all persons who are 18 years or over and an Australian citizen or an eligible British subject. Once enrolled it is also compulsory for all eligible prisoners to vote in a federal election.

Forms to enrol as a prisoner are available at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or by contacting the AEC via telephone on 13 23 26 or by post: GPO Box 9867, in your Capital city.

## Can prisoners enrol and vote in federal elections?

Enrolment is compulsory for all persons who are 18 years or over and an Australian citizen or an eligible British subject. Prisoners must be enrolled and remain enrolled while they are serving a full time prison sentence.

If you are serving a full time sentence of less than three years, it is compulsory for you to vote.

If you are serving a sentence of three years or longer, you must be enrolled but you cannot vote in any federal election.

Serving a full time sentence does not include home detention or parole. In those cases, you can enrol and vote as an ordinary elector.

## Can prisoners enrol and vote in state/territory elections?

Eligibility requirements in state, territory and local government elections may differ for prisoner enrolment and voting. For more information, please contact your state or territory electoral authority.

## Which address are prisoners eligible to enrol for?

If you were enrolled when you started serving your sentence, you are entitled to remain on the electoral roll at that address while you are in prison.

However, you should notify the AEC that you are absent from your enrolled address to ensure you are not incorrectly removed from the electoral roll.

If you were not enrolled when you began serving your sentence, and you are eligible, you can enrol by completing the *Enrol to vote or update your details as a prisoner* form. This is available at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or by contacting

the AEC via telephone on 13 23 26 or by post: GPO Box 9867, in your Capital city.

Criteria for selecting the correct address for your enrolment are included on the form.

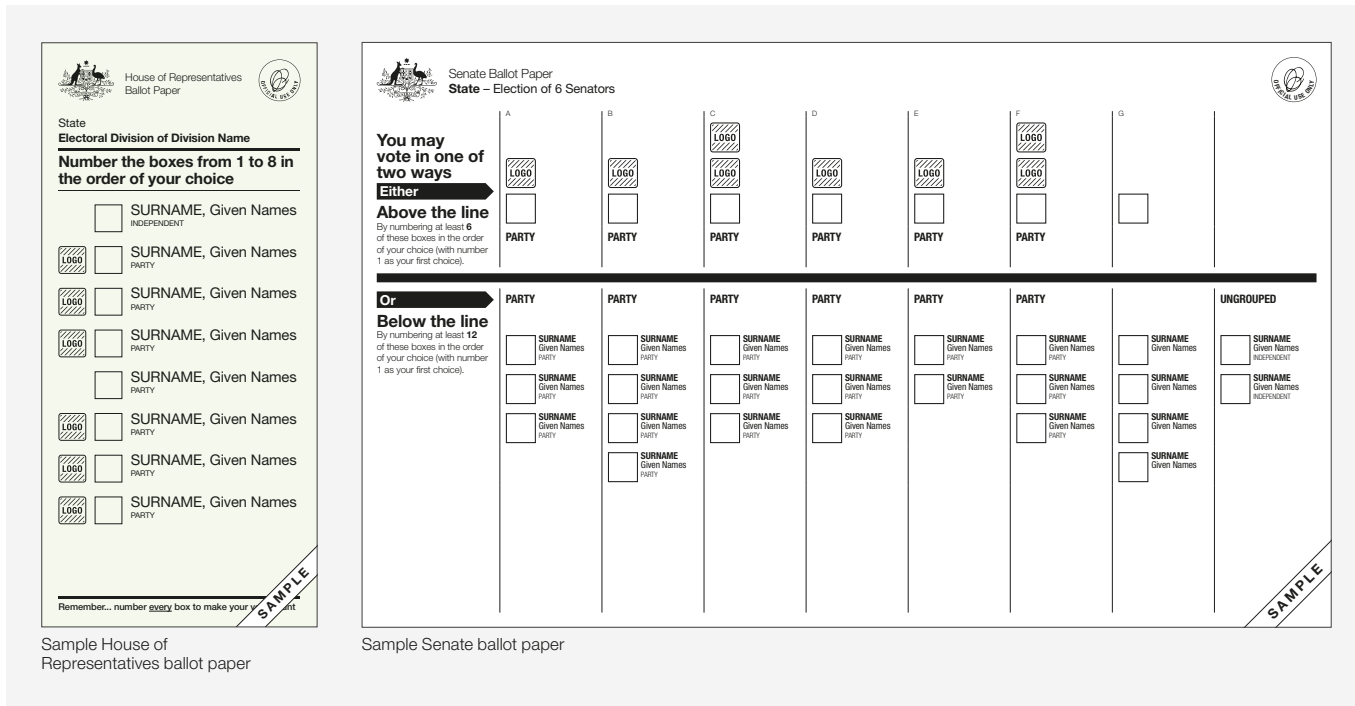
You can check if you are currently enrolled at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or by calling 13 23 26.

## How do prisoners vote?

As an enrolled prisoner, you can vote by post. This means you will be required to apply for a postal vote after the election has been announced by filling in the required form. This form will be accessible online at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or by contacting the AEC via telephone on 13 23 26 or by post: GPO Box 9867, in your Capital city.

## What should prisoners do when released?

Once you are released from prison you may update your details online at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or at any AEC office.



### How do I make my vote count?

At a federal election, you are voting to elect people to represent you in the two houses of the Australian Parliament: the House of Representatives and the Senate.

You will receive two ballot papers:

- a green one to vote for a representative of your local area (electoral division) in the House of Representatives, and
- a white one to vote for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

Instructions on how to vote are printed on the ballot papers.

### Want to know more?

You can learn more about the electoral system and about enrolment and voting at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or by contacting the AEC via telephone on 13 23 26.

Electoral information, including the official guide to the federal election and candidate lists, will be available in accessible formats. This information can be obtained from the AEC website after the election is announced, or hard copy versions can be ordered by contacting the AEC.