

**AEC**

Australian Electoral Commission

Our Ref: Prison Voting FE16

[Name]
 [Title / position – delete if not required]
 [Address 1]
 [Address 2]
 [CITY STATE POSTCODE]

Dear

Voting for eligible prisoners for the 2016 federal election.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) would like to ensure that all eligible prisoners have the opportunity to vote at the next federal election. We are writing to ask for your assistance to promote enrolment and voting with the eligible prisoners in your facility. To help facilitate this we are providing you with the following information about prisoner eligibility for enrolment and the postal voting process for the next federal election.

Enrolment of Prisoners

In order to vote at a federal election eligible prisoners will need to be enrolled so that their names appear on the Electoral Roll.

Under section 93 (8AA) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, a prisoner is eligible for enrolment and voting in a federal election if they are:

- an Australian Citizen or a British subject who was listed on the Australian Electoral Roll on 25 January 1984;
- aged 18 years and over; and
- serving a sentence of imprisonment of less than 3 years.

Prisoners are entitled to be enrolled at the address in the Electorate that they were enrolled in at the time of commencing their sentence. Therefore, if they were enrolled when they commenced their sentence they do not need to re-enrol, change address or amend any of their enrolment details.

Prisoners who are eligible to enrol but were not enrolled at the time that they commenced their sentence have the following options to determine their Electorate and enrolled address:

- The place where they last lived, for minimum one month, prior to commencing their sentence; or
- The address at which their next of kin is enrolled.

If neither of the above apply, they can apply for:

- The place where they were born; or
- The address to which they have the closest connection.

We have enclosed 50 enrolment forms for you to make available to eligible prisoners. Should you require more enrolment forms they can be downloaded from our website at www.aec.gov.au.

If any prisoners have queries regarding their enrolment they can make a staff initiated call to the AEC on 13 23 26.

Voting Services at the time of the election

The AEC will be providing a postal voting service to all eligible prisoners for the 2016 federal election. Under the postal voting provisions, eligible prisoners can apply for a postal vote to be sent to an address they specify. The application is processed for eligibility by the AEC and if the person is eligible to vote and the candidates have been finalised, ballot papers will be sent to the nominated address. The ballot papers must be filled in before 6pm on polling day and sealed into the envelope provided and posted back to the AEC.

Prisoners can apply for a postal vote any time from the issue of the writ for the election until the Thursday prior to polling day. However, if the application for a postal vote is made in the last week prior to polling day it may be difficult to get the ballot papers to the prisoner on time for them to vote before 6pm on polling day.

Postal vote applications will not be available until after the announcement of an election date. We will forward 50 postal vote application forms to you when they become available. We will also provide you with 'How to vote' guides and information on the senate voting changes for distribution to eligible prisoners.

If we can be of further assistance or if any prisoners have any queries regarding enrolment or postal voting please contact the AEC by phone on 13 23 26.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Hinkley
Operations Manager Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission

April 2016