**Talking points – The referendum process**

**What is a referendum**

* The Australian Constitution is a set of rules by which Australia is run. It is like a ‘rule book’.
* There are rules about how the Constitution can be changed. The only way to change the Constitution is by holding a referendum.
* A referendum is a national vote – and every Australian over 18 must vote.

**Enrolling to vote**

**Why enrol to vote**

* To vote in the referendum, you need to be on the electoral roll.
* When you enrol to vote, your name and address are added to the electoral roll.
* You must enrol and vote if you’re an Australian aged 18 or over – it is compulsory.
* You don’t have to enrol separately for a referendum. If you’re enrolled for elections, you’re enrolled for referendums too. Just make sure your details are up to date.

**How to enrol or update your details**

* You can enrol online at aec.gov.au using a computer or smart phone, or you can use a paper form.
* You need one of the following as a form of identity:
* your driver's licence
* a Medicare card
* an Australian passport
* an Australian citizenship certificate
* someone who is already enrolled who knows who you are can confirm your identity.
* You should enrol to vote now so you don’t miss out.
* If you move address, or change your name, you will need to update your details with the AEC. You can update your details online, or on a paper form.

**How to vote formally**

* At a referendum, you will get a ballot paper with the proposed alteration to the Constitution on it, followed by a question asking if you approve the proposed alteration. On the referendum ballot paper you need to indicate your vote by clearly writing:

YES in the box if you approve the proposed alteration, OR

NO in the box if you do not approve the proposed alteration.

* Ballot papers that are not completed correctly are referred to as informal ballot papers.
* To make sure your vote can be counted in a referendum, you need to clearly write either ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ in the box next to the question.

**How the vote is counted**

* To become law, the proposed alteration to the Constitution must be approved by a ‘double majority’.
* That means, for the referendum to pass, more than half of the voters in Australia must vote ‘yes’and more than half the voters in at least four states must also vote ‘yes’*.*

**Stop and consider – misinformation and disinformation**

* During a referendum there are a lot of things said and written about how you should vote. This may be on the radio, on social media, in a newspaper, or in talking with other people.
* Some of this information may be important for you to think about. But some of the information may be wrong – either accidently or on purpose.
* You should stop and think about the information you see, hear and read before you decide whether to believe it.
* You should think about whether the information is:
  + Reliable: is the information from a reliable or recognised source?
  + Current: is this the latest information?
  + Safe: could the information be a scam?

**Employment opportunities during the referendum**

**What jobs are available**

* The AEC hires around 100,000 people to work on the referendum and it’s looking for people who can work in their local community.
* Jobs include working in polling places, counting votes, and helping with planning and logistics.
* Most jobs are on voting day. Some jobs start weeks before voting day or continue for a short time after voting day.
* All jobs are paid and you don’t need any experience – we provide training.
* The AEC is also looking for people who speak languages other than English.

**How to register your interest**

If you’re interested in work, you can submit an online registration of interest at aec.gov.au/electionjobs