‘What is a referendum?’ transcript

*This transcript provides an alternate to the Australian Electoral Commission’s (AEC’s) ‘What is a referendum?’ video.*

We’ve heard a lot of talk about a potential federal referendum.

Well, there hasn’t been one in a while. It’s been since 1999 and there are some eligible voters who weren’t even born then.

So, what is a referendum?

It’s a national vote on a particular issue to potentially change the Constitution.

Federal parliament, they come up with the question. Then it’s up to voters to say, ‘yes’ or ‘no’.

It is a compulsory vote, it’s exactly the same as a federal election in that you must turn out and have your say.

How does it pass? Well, you need a double majority. Not only does the majority of people nationally have to say ‘yes’ on the issue, it also requires at least four of the six states to say ‘yes’ as well.

We haven’t had one in a while so if you have any questions go to the AEC website or ask a question in the comments below.