



## **DEMOCRACY SAUSAGE**

### **MEDIA STATEMENT: 11 October 2020**

#### **Democracy sausage & supporting your community during the COVID-19 pandemic**

The Australian Capital Territory election will be held on Saturday 17th October 2020, and the Queensland State election Saturday 31st October 2020.

As much as we love a good democracy sausage, COVID-19 has changed the way community fundraising operates.

Postal voting and early voting will reduce attendance at polling places on election day, and there may be further restrictions on allowable fundraising.

#### **Can I buy a democracy sausage if I vote in person?**

In the Australian Capital Territory, [some democracy sausages will be permitted](#), although voters have been advised not to linger in the area after making a purchase.

In Queensland, it is yet to be confirmed whether election day sizzles and cake stalls will be allowed, with the Queensland Electoral Commission stating the fundraising events on election day will be permitted only if supported by the Chief Health Officer's advice.

Democracy sausage enthusiasts should follow the public health advice of their local health authority, and vote early or by post if possible. However, if you can't avoid voting in-person this month, the Queensland Electoral Commission offers [some useful advice](#):

- Plan your vote – who will you vote for?
- Know where and when you will vote
- Stay 1.5 metres apart
- Use hand sanitiser
- Bring your own pen or pencil

Democracy sausages and bake sales have traditionally provided a boost in funding for local schools and community groups. If you happen to find yourself at a polling place with a democracy sausage: excellent! Consider buying one, or making a small donation if you are not comfortable sharing food.

## How can I keep up the democracy sausage tradition from home?

While we would normally encourage travelling far and wide in search of democracy sausage, this year, we instead encourage **#democracysausageathome**.

If there is no fundraiser at your polling place, or you have voted early or by post, you can still participate in the democracy sausage tradition by making your own at home.

Just take a photo of your democracy sausage on election day, use the hashtag #democracysausageathome and tag @demsausage on Twitter, and we will select five entries from each election to receive a democracy sausage sticker!

If you are financially able to do so, please also consider making a donation to a local community group while enjoying your #democracysausageathome. You can look at booths near you from previous [Federal](#), [ACT](#), and [Queensland](#) election maps, to see if submitters have added information about their fundraising goals. Alternatively, the following organisations are great options:

- [Lifeline](#)
- [Beyond Blue](#)
- [Foodbank](#)
- [Australian Red Cross](#)

## Will there still be a map?

If your jurisdiction is allowing fundraising and you would like to mark a booth on the map for posterity, you can submit it via the [democracysausage.org](http://democracysausage.org) website, or by letting us know on social media.

However, we'll be keeping things low key at Democracy Sausage HQ this month, and won't be going all out to identify fundraising booths, or encouraging voters to seek them out.

Happy election day to our ACT and Queensland friends, and a special thank you to those who are helping protect your communities by voting early and voting by post. Please stay safe while voting, and we look forward to joining you for #democracysausageathome.

## For further information, contact:

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