

Enrolment

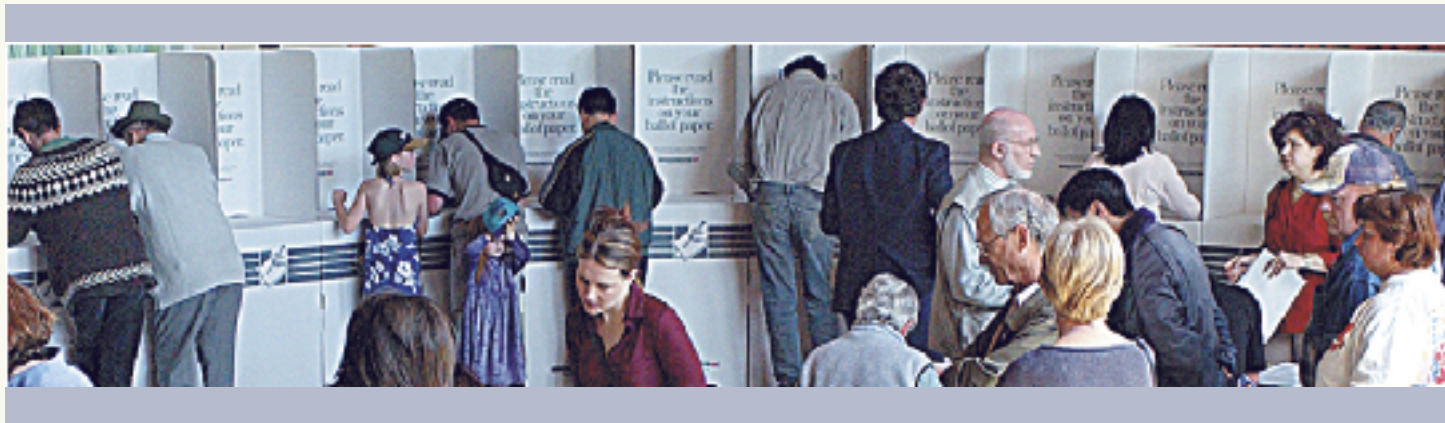
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Enrolment

Who Could Vote?

A person was eligible to vote in the 2001 federal election if their name was on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll by close of rolls for the election at 8pm, Monday 15 October 2001.

The electoral roll is a list of all people who are registered to vote at Australian elections. Australian citizens 18 years of age and over (with a few exceptions) must enrol to vote. Voting is compulsory in federal elections and referendums for enrolled electors.

Seventeen year olds may provisionally enrol and can vote if their 18th birthday falls on or before polling day for the election. The only non-Australian citizens who are eligible to vote are British subjects who were on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll immediately before 26 January 1984, at which time the eligibility requirements were altered.

The following Australian citizens are not entitled to enrol and vote:

- people who are incapable of understanding the nature and significance of enrolment and voting
- prisoners serving a sentence of five years or more, and
- people who have been convicted of treason and not pardoned

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Close of Rolls

When an election is announced, there are seven days from the issue of the writs for people to ensure that they are correctly enrolled before the electoral roll is closed.

During the 2001 federal election, a large number of Australians used the close of rolls week either to enrol for the first time or to check their enrolment details and if necessary to update these details. The AEC answered over 155,446 enquiries through the Information Enquiry Service, replied to 2,000 email enquiries and processed over 373,757 enrolments, of which 86,224 were new enrolments.

There were 12,636,631 people enrolled to vote at the close of rolls for the 2001 federal election at 8pm on Monday, 15 October 2001. This figure included 17 year olds who would turn 18, and therefore be entitled to vote by 10 November 2001.

Enrolment statistics for each State and Territory are detailed in the table opposite.

Close of rolls figures by State/Territory*

State/Territory	As at 8pm, 15 October 2001
NSW	4,204,383
VIC	3,218,746
QLD	2,319,481
WA	1,200,438
SA	1,034,377
TAS	328,829
ACT	219,876
NT	110,501
TOTAL	12,636,631

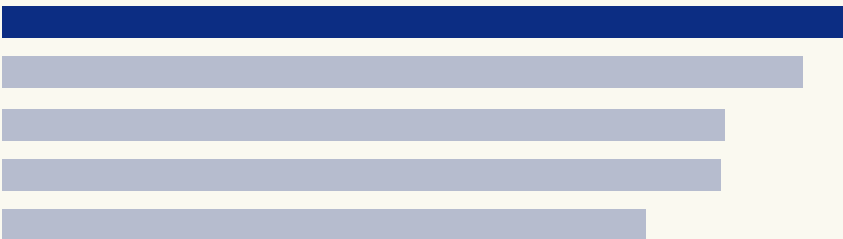
*** NOTE:** Close of rolls figures were calculated following the processing of all enrolment forms received by 8.00pm on Monday 15 October 2001 and appear only on this page. All other enrolment figures in this publication are close of rolls figures which have been adjusted since polling day to give the exact number of electors entitled to vote at the election. The adjustments include the removal of the names of electors who died after the close of rolls and the reinstatement of eligible electors previously removed from the roll.

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Close of Rolls (continued)

Comparative close of rolls enrolment figures for federal elections conducted since 1990 are presented in the graph below.

Close of rolls figures 1990–2001

2001		12,636,631
1998		12,056,625
1996		11,655,190
1993		11,339,849
1990		10,666,875*

* These figures do not include provisional (age 17) enrolments

Special Enrolment

Special enrolment arrangements are available to electors who qualify. The following services may assist electors who have special needs:

- people who are unable to complete and sign their own enrolment form due to a physical disability may have someone complete their form and are able to apply to become general postal voters

- people with no fixed place of address may enrol as itinerant electors
- people working in Antarctica can register as Antarctic electors to maintain their name on the roll and to make use of special voting arrangements at election time
- special enrolment provisions apply for electors resident on Norfolk Island
- people who believe that the publication of their address on the roll would put their own, or their family's, safety at risk may apply for silent enrolment so that their address is not shown on the roll#, and
- Members of the House of Representatives can choose to enrol in the electoral division which they represent and Senators can enrol in any division in the State/Territory they represent.

NOTE: Silent enrolment is subject to applicants meeting AEC assessment criteria.

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Overseas Enrolment

People who are already enrolled to vote at Commonwealth elections and are going overseas with an intention to return to Australia within six years, may apply to register as an Overseas Elector. This will ensure that their name is not removed from the Roll and that they can vote while overseas.

Changes to enrolment legislation introduced just prior to the 1998 federal election, now allow enrolment by eligible people living overseas. Australian citizens who are overseas and not enrolled, but would have been eligible if they were in Australia, and who:

- left Australia less than two years ago
- are outside Australia for career or employment purposes or that of their spouse
- are going to be overseas for up to six years, and/or
- intend to return to Australia permanently are able to enrol using a special enrolment form called 'Enrolment from outside Australia'. These forms are available from Australian embassies and consulates and on the AEC website www.aec.gov.au.

At 15 October 2001 the following number of electors had special enrolment:

State/Territory	Provisional	Itinerant	Overseas	Silent	Antarctic
NSW	2,817	992	3,303	8,470	15
VIC	2,833	812	3,436	6,006	21
QLD	1,534	1,303	1,280	6,083	14
WA	914	362	500	5,098	7
SA	789	382	339	3,416	7
TAS	290	202	147	493	27
ACT	194	77	1,490	947	4
NT	32	71	141	200	6
TOTAL	9,403	4,201	10,636	30,713	101

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The Electoral Roll

After the close of rolls, extracts of data from the computerised roll management system are used to produce Certified Lists of electors, reference rolls and microfiche.

Certified Lists

The Certified List is the official electoral roll used on polling day to mark off electors' names. Each polling place is supplied with copies of the Certified List of electors, for the division in which it is located. The list contains the name and address of all electors with two black arrow head markings (clockmarks) about a centimetre apart beside the name of each elector. At a polling place the polling official will draw a line between the arrow heads indicating that the elector has been given their ballot papers.

After an election the Certified Lists are electronically scanned to identify apparent non-voters and possible multiple voters.

For the 2001 election:

- 28,462 Certified Lists were printed, with the 150 electoral divisions receiving on average 189 Certified Lists, each comprising approximately 420 pages
- preparations for the printing of the lists commenced early in 2001 and laser printing contractors were engaged in each State and the Australian Capital Territory at 12 separate secure sites
- the lists were printed on high-speed laser printers
- over 5.9 million A4 sheets of paper were used for printing the lists
- printing of the lists took ten days to complete

Reference Rolls

Reference rolls are also produced following the close of rolls for an election. They contain the same information as Certified Lists (without the clockmarks) and are produced specifically as reference material.

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The Electoral Roll

Reference Rolls (continued)

Under the Act all House of Representatives candidates are provided with a copy of the reference rolls for the division for which they are standing, as soon as possible after the close of rolls. Following the results of the election, copies of the rolls are supplied to all successful candidates in the House of Representatives and Senate elections. Reference rolls are also available for public inspection at the relevant Divisional Office.

For this election:

- some 7,500 reference rolls were printed in total
- this was an average of 50 rolls per division
- reference rolls were printed in three sites in New South Wales and Victoria, and
- over 1.5 million sheets of paper were used in the printing of reference rolls

The roll was also produced on microfiche and made available for public inspection at all AEC offices.



Polling official marking elector's name off the Certified List.