

Homeless not voteless

Election FAQs for homeless sector staff



1. Why is voting important for people experiencing homelessness?

Voting is a human right. It gives all Victorians a say about who makes decisions that impact their lives. This includes decisions about healthcare, transport, housing, and support services.

2. Is voting compulsory for people experiencing homelessness in Victoria?

No.

Every Victorian citizen aged 18 and over, including people experiencing homelessness has the right to vote.

If you are experiencing homelessness you can fill in a no fixed address enrolment form.

3. Can a person without a home enrol to vote?

Yes.

The 'no fixed address' enrolment form allows someone without a permanent home address to enrol. This includes those people without access to safe and secure housing.

The enrolment form is available online at aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/Special_Category/no-fixed-address-enrol.htm

4. How can we support our clients to enrol?

You can find resources and information online at VEC. vec.vic.gov.au. You can also book a mobile enrolment session delivered by VEC staff any time before the close of roll. To book a session visit <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voting/learn-to-vote/book-an-information-session>

5. How can we support someone who finds voting overwhelming?

There are many ways to support someone in this situation. You could:

- give them our Easy Read voting guides
- explain the voting process in simple steps
- offer support and care while someone votes
- allow people extra time to vote if needed
- ask the VEC if your organisation can host mobile voting
- encourage early voting at a homelessness service with mobile voting

6. Can support workers help someone vote?

Yes. A support worker can help a voter:

- understand the process
- read or complete the ballot paper (if asked to by the voter)
- navigate the voting experience

Important: The vote must reflect the voter's own choice. Support workers must not influence decisions.

7. How do we help someone prepare to vote?

You can:

- check their enrolment at vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment/check-my-enrolment
- talk to them about what voting means vec.vic.gov.au/voting/learn-to-vote
- review sample ballot papers together
- practice numbering preferences on the ballot paper with them [aec.gov.au/Voting/How_to_vote/practice/](https://vec.vic.gov.au/Voting/How_to_vote/practice/)
- discuss the choices of candidates without influencing them

8. How can a person experiencing homelessness vote?

People experiencing homelessness can vote:

- by post
- in person at a mobile voting service (these will be available at some homeless support services)
- in person at a voting centre (either early voting centres or on election day)

9. Fines

- If someone has enrolled with a no-fixed-address form they should not receive a fine for not voting
- Being without a home or secure housing is a valid reason for not voting.
- If someone receives an 'apparent failure to vote' notice they should respond as soon as possible explaining their situation
- You can call us with your client to get help

10. Where can we get more training or resources?

Visit vec.vic.gov.au or contact our Public Engagement Branch on 131 832. We can offer:

- resources to support people experiencing homelessness
- information for support workers or staff

information or education sessions, book online at vec.vic.gov.au/voting/learn-to-vote/book-an-information-session



For more information about voting without a home, scan the QR code