



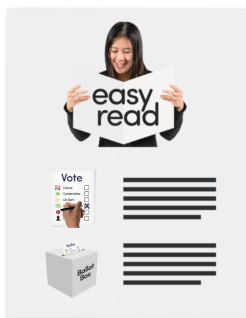
Getting ready to vote

“It’s your rights, it’s your life!

Voting is your chance to have a say and to make your voice heard. Being able to vote is your basic human right. Voting is your way to choose who will make important decisions that affect you.”

- Disability Rights Advocate, Shea MacDonough

About this fact sheet



This fact sheet is about voting.

It will tell you about:

- getting ready to vote
- things you can do before you vote
- where to find information or help.



Down Syndrome
Australia

This fact sheet was written by Down Syndrome Australia.



You can ask someone to help you read this sheet.

About voting



Voting is when you have a say about who will be part of Australia's government.

You choose who you would like to be the leader of your state or your country.



People with Down syndrome have the right to vote, just like everybody else.

It is your right to vote, and to choose who you want to vote for.



People with Down syndrome can vote when they turn 18, just like everyone else.

Before you vote



First, you need to **enrol** to vote.

You can do this on an enrolment form.

You give your name, and other details about yourself.



Then your name will go onto the **electoral roll**.

The **electoral roll** is a list of people who can vote.



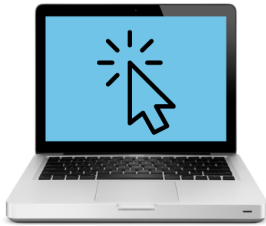
You can enrol online at:

<http://www.aec.gov.au/enrol>



You can also visit your nearest Australian Electoral Commission Office.

The AEC website has an [Easy Read guide about how to enrol](#).



You can check if you are already enrolled to vote.

Use this website to check if you are enrolled.

<https://check.aec.gov.au>



If you cannot vote, you can ask to be taken off the electoral roll.

To do this you need a medical certificate from a doctor.

Who will you vote for?



Before you vote, here are some things you can do.

Find out more about the **candidates**.

Candidates are the people that you vote for in an election.

The Candidates who get the most votes will be part of Australia's government.





You can find out about:

- which candidates you can vote for
- what issues are important to them
- what their ideas are for change
- and if you think these are good ideas too.



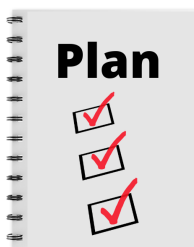
You can ask candidates questions by:

- emailing them
- visiting their electorate office.



Sometimes candidates or their supporters hold a meeting you can go to.

They might visit your community or give community information sessions.

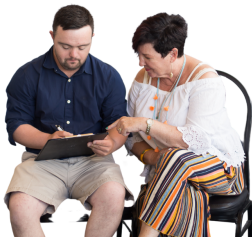


You can also create a plan about voting.

Here is an example of a plan to vote:

Plan-to-Vote from icanvote.org.au

Help with voting



If you need help to vote, you can ask someone to help you.

You can ask a friend, family member or support person for help.



You can get support to get to the **polling place**

This is where you go to vote.



You can get support to understand the **voting papers**.

These are the papers that you fill in when you make your vote.

More information

Here are some places to get more information:



The **Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)** has Easy Read information about:

- how to enrol to vote
- how to vote at a polling place
- how to vote by mail.



The **I Can Vote** website explains how to vote.

<https://icanvote.org.au>



Your Down syndrome association can help you with more information or support.

Phone: 1300 881 935

Website: www.downsyndrome.org.au

March 2025

www.downsyndrome.org.au