

## 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.



This fact sheet was written by Down Syndrome Australia.



You can ask someone to help you read this sheet.

This sheet has some hard words.

The first time we use a hard word:

- the word is in **bold**
- we explain what the word means.

# 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 vote for who you want to vote for.



Australians 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 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/>

# 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.

If you choose them, they 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
- and if you think these are good ideas too.



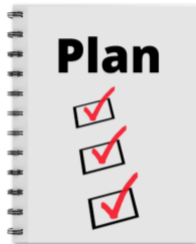
You can ask candidates questions by:

- emailing them
- visiting their office.



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

They might have a booth you can visit at the local shops.



You can create a plan about voting.

Here is an example of a plan:

**Plan-to-Vote from [icanvote.org.au](http://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.

## Places to find more information



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

- how to enroll to vote
- how to vote at a polling place and
- how to vote by mail.

<https://www.aec.gov.au/assistance/>



The **I Can Vote** website helps you to learn about voting.

<https://icanvote.org.au>



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

Phone: 1300 881 935

[www.downsyndrome.org.au](http://www.downsyndrome.org.au)

Down Syndrome Australia wrote this Easy Read guide in March 2022.

[www.downsyndrome.org.au](http://www.downsyndrome.org.au)