For members of the Australian Defence Forces, regular postings are often a fact of life. These frequent moves need not cause problems in correctly maintaining electoral enrolment.

This pamphlet sets out the special enrolment entitlements and voting procedures available to Australians and their families being posted in Australia or overseas.

If you would like more information please contact an office of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). Your local AEC office is listed in the telephone book. Contact numbers for the State Head offices are on the back of this pamphlet.

Do I have to enrol to vote?

Enrolling to vote is compulsory for all Australian citizens who are eighteen years of age and over.

Seventeen year olds may enrol to vote but cannot vote until they turn eighteen - this is called provisional enrolment.

Enrolment forms are available from Post Offices within Australia and from AEC offices. These forms will also enrol you for State/ Territory and most Local Government elections.

What happens to my enrolment if I'm posted in Australia?

If you are posted away from your permanent address but you intend to return there after your posting, you can either:

- remain enrolled at your permanent address by notifying your Divisional Returning Officer of your temporary absence, or;
- re-enrol at your new address after you have been there for one month.
If you are unlikely to return to your permanent address for some considerable time, then you should re-enrol for the address of your posting.

Australian Navy personnel who may have no place of residence other than the ship on which they are serving should enrol for their home port.

**What happens to my enrolment if I'm posted outside Australia?**

If you intend returning to your current address, simply advise your local AEC office of your intended date of return.

If you are posted overseas for three years or less and do not intend to return to your current address you can, in the month before leaving Australia, register at your local AEC office as an overseas elector. You may register the names of any other electors in your family also. If you are registered as an overseas elector and you have a family member who will turn eighteen while overseas then it is possible for them to enrol while they are still overseas.

As a registered overseas elector, your name will remain on the roll even though you are not living in the Division for which you are enrolled.

When you return to Australia, you will need to re-enrol for your new address. Do this by filling out a new enrolment form.

If your overseas posting is extended beyond three years, you should notify the AEC within three months of the expiry date of your registration as an overseas elector so that it can be extended.
How do I vote while overseas?
If you will be overseas on polling day you can cast a pre-poll vote at most Australian Overseas Missions. However many overseas offices will not be open on election day (Saturday) so you should check opening hours with the office at which you intend to vote.

You can also apply for a postal vote at Australian Overseas Missions. You may vote through the post by completing a postal vote application form (available from Australian Overseas Missions) and ballot papers will be sent to the address you nominate.

These ballot papers must be completed and received at the Overseas Mission or be in the mail back to the AEC before polling day. Provided that the envelope containing your ballot papers is postmarked prior to polling day, the AEC will accept postal votes up to 13 days after polling day.

If you are leaving Australia for overseas during the election period, you can enquire about voting at your local AEC office before you go.

Can someone arrange my vote for me?
You can get a friend or relative to send a postal vote application to you, but they cannot complete it on your behalf. You must sign the application yourself. Before returning your ballot papers, you are also required to sign a declaration on the envelope. You will receive instructions with your ballot papers. It is an offence to impersonate someone for the purpose of voting.
Pre-poll votes can be cast in person at any Divisional Office or Pre-poll Voting Centre. To vote by post, you will need to complete and return a postal vote application form. These forms are available at any Post Office or AEC office. As soon as we receive your postal vote application form in the Divisional Office, we will send ballot papers to you.

What about State/Territory and local government elections?
Requirements for voting in State/Territory and Local Government elections can vary. You should contact your State/Territory electoral authority or local council for more information.

More Information?
The contact numbers for the Central Office in Canberra and the State Head Offices are as follows:

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<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
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(Country callers may use the free-call number 008 805863.)