

FACT SHEET

No. 4

ENROLMENT

The Commonwealth Electoral Roll - lists the names and addresses of people entitled to vote in federal elections. Separate rolls are printed for each Division and can be inspected or bought by the public. In December **1991**, **10.86** million Australians were enrolled.

Joint rolls - In NSW, Victoria, SA and Tasmania the one roll is used for both State and federal elections. In WA and Qld a joint enrolment card is used, but separate rolls are used for State elections.

Compulsory enrolment - Enrolment is compulsory for Australian citizens who are over the age of 18 and have lived at their current address for at least a month. British subjects who were on the roll on 25 January **1984** retain their voting rights.

Enrolment at 17 - 17 year olds (who, if they were 18 years old would be eligible for enrolment,) can apply for enrolment so that they can vote in Commonwealth elections as soon as they turn 18, this is called provisional enrolment.

People convicted of offences carrying prison sentences of five years or more, and persons of unsound mind incapable of understanding the nature and significance of enrolment and voting, are not entitled to enrol.

How to enrol - To enrol, it is necessary to complete an electoral enrolment form, which must be witnessed by someone eligible to be an elector and returned to an Australian Electoral Commission office. Enrolment forms are available from all Post Offices and offices of the Australian Electoral Commission.

Changing address - When changing address a new electoral enrolment form must be lodged with the Australian Electoral Commission advising the new address.

Special category electors - Electors who are going overseas but intend to return to live in Australia within three years; who have no real or fixed place of living; who work in Antarctica; or who consider that the publication of their addresses on the publicly available Commonwealth Electoral Roll would endanger the personal safety of themselves or their families, can apply for enrolment as a "special category elector".

Objections to the roll - "Objections" may be lodged against electors on the ground that they no longer reside in the Subdivision for which they are enrolled and have not lived there for at least the last month. These are usually lodged by the Divisional Returning Officer (DRO) as a result of an Electoral Roll Review or Non-Voter follow-up. The DRO notifies electors of the intention to remove their names from the electoral roll then, after a statutory period of time, the DRO will determine whether the electors' names should be retained or deleted from the electoral roll.