



Bulletin Number 1- Federal Election 2019

We are Ethnic, We are Taxpayers and We Vote

The Prime Minister has called the next election for 18th May and pundits are predicting a very close result.

ECCWA, as a non-party political organisation, has never directed its members to exercise their franchise in favour of a particular party or parties.

However, it will as it has done for the last few decades do everything it can to outline the concerns and aspirations of its constituency to the major political parties and obtain from them relevant information which will enable CaLD Australians to exercise their franchise in an informed manner.

Accordingly, ECCWA will be undertaking a number of activities in this regard and they include inter alia:

- Periodic Election Bulletins
- Creating a webpage on its website promoting issues related to the Election.
- Organising a Pre-Election Forum
- Seeking responses from political parties on their stance in relation to issues of concerns to CaLD communities.

Electoral Roll

Voting is compulsory in Australia and unfortunately many Australians who are entitled to vote are yet to register for the same.

As an Australian citizen aged 18 years of age or older, you have a right and a responsibility to enrol and vote in federal elections.

Please register/update your details ASAP if you have just turned 18, become Australian citizen or have changed addresses. All the details are available at <http://aec.gov.au/enrol/>

Postal Voting/Early voting centres

If you are unlikely to be in Australia on 18th May, please use the postal voting option before you depart.

Early voting centres are open in the weeks leading up to Election Day and their locations and opening times will be available at http://www.aec.gov.au/voting/ways_to_vote/ Information on how to apply for a postal vote and vote while overseas is also available on that website.

Please see letter from Ms. Fleur Hill, AEC regarding enrolment, Postal Voting, Early voting centres etc. which is reproduced on the next page.

Pre-Election Forum

The date and venues for ECCWA's "We are Ethnic, We are Taxpayers and We Vote Forum", are yet to be determined and will soon be announced.

Representatives of the Coalition, Greens and the ALP will be invited to address our members and the public on matters of particular interest and concern to ethnic and other minorities.

Responses from political parties

ECCWA will be seeking written responses from the Australian Greens, the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party of Australia on their stance in relation to issues of concerns to CaLD communities. ECCWA invites its member organisations to advise what questions should be included in this regard.

ECCWA urges its members organisations to do all it can to ensure that people (especially those who have just turned 18) to enrol and for everyone to update their particulars if they have moved residence since the last election.

Dear Stakeholder

FEDERAL ELCTION- Saturday 18th May 2019

As you will be aware there is to be federal election on Saturday 18 May 2019. The purpose of this letter is to provide some information for you and your clients about services available to electors in casting their vote. We would greatly appreciate your efforts in sharing this information.

Enrolment

Voting is compulsory for all eligible persons whose names are include on the electoral roll. The rolls for this election close at 8pm on Thursday, 18 April 2019 and those who have moved address, changed their name or become newly eligible since the last election are encouraged to update their details on the roll before the deadline.

General information about enrolling and voting

Further information is available on the AEC website www.aec.gov.au. Answers to frequently asked questions, including the range of assistance available to help electors to cast their vote is at http://www.aec.gov.au/FAQs/Voting_Australia.htm. Alternatively electors can call the AEC's national help line on 13 23 26.

Culturally and linguistically diverse voters

General information on enrolling and voting is translated in a range of languages. Visit www.aec.gov.au/translated for more information.

General information about voting and elections in other languages is available by calling the numbers in the following table.

Arabic	1300 720 132	Polish 143	1300 720
Cantonese	1300 720 135	Portuguese	1300 720 145
Croatian	1300 720 136	Russian 146	1300 720
Greek	1300 720 137	Serbian	1300 720 147
Italian	1300 720 138	Spanish 148	1300 720
Khmer	1300 720 134	Turkish 149	1300 720
Korean	1300 720 468	Vietnamese	1300 720 152
Macedonian	1300 720 139	All other languages	1300 720 153
Mandarin	1300 720 142		

Enrolling and voting as a person with no fixed address

People who have no fixed address can enrol by completing the Enrolment for persons with no fixed address form. This form is available at www.aec.gov.au or at any AEC office.

Once enrolled, voting is available at a range of locations on Election Day, these locations can be found at www.aec.gov.au. Postal voting and early voting centres are also available to people who cannot make it to a polling place on polling day.

It is not compulsory for someone enrolled with no fixed address to vote, therefore failure to vote will not result in a fine. However, enrolment allows the opportunity to vote and participate in the democratic process.

I trust that this information is of use.

Yours sincerely

Fleur Hill
Australian Electoral Officer and
State Manager for WA, Western Australian State Office of AEC