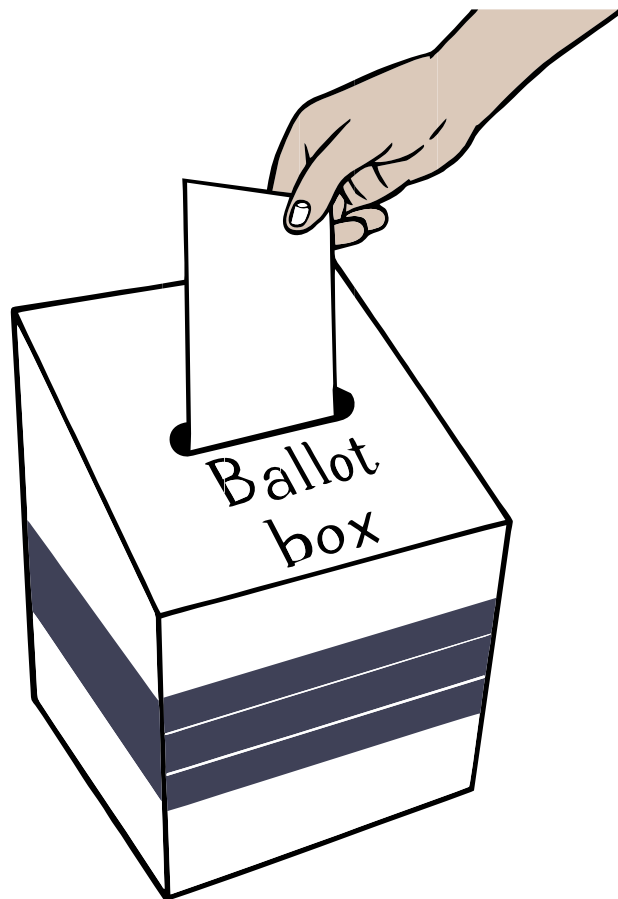




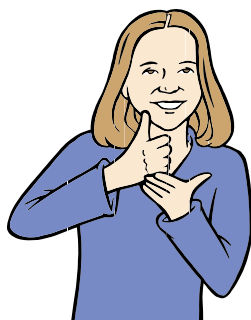
Easy English

# Vote in Local Council Attendance Elections



Victorian Electoral Commission

# You can get this information in different ways



## Auslan

Contact the Victorian Electoral Commission for a DVD in Auslan.



## Other languages

Read page 26 to 27.



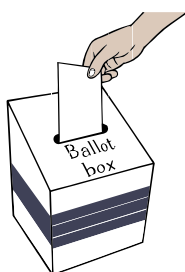
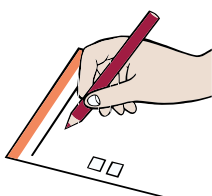
Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre helped the Victorian Electoral Commission write this Easy English book. April 2016.

For more information about Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre phone 03 9843 2000 or go to [www.scopevic.org.au](http://www.scopevic.org.au)

# What is in this book?

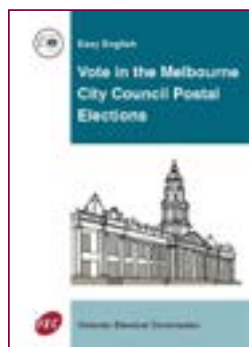
<b>About this book</b>	What this book is about	4
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	Australia's government	6
<b>Your local council</b>	Victorian local councils	7
	What councillors do	8
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# About this book



## This book is about

- Victorian local council elections
- how to vote
- what to do at a voting centre
- how to become a candidate.



There are other books for people who vote in postal elections

**or**

the Melbourne City Council election.

Contact the VEC for more information.

Read page 25.

# Our democracy

## What is voting?



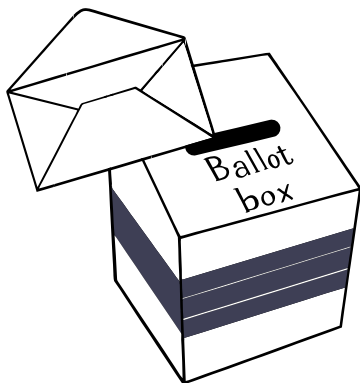
An election is when you make a choice about who is in charge.

To make a choice you need to **vote**.

All votes are equal.

Voting is your human right.

## Voting is secret



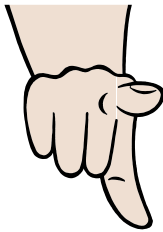
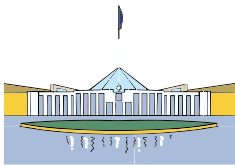
You do **not** have to show anyone your vote.

# Our democracy

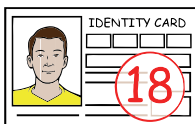
## Australia's Government

Australia has 3 types of government

- Federal government
- State government
- local council.



Your vote helps to decide who is in charge.

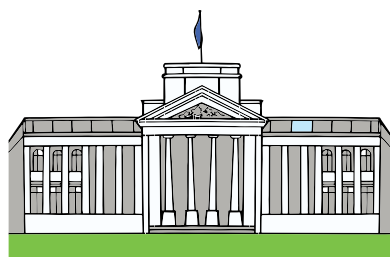


Every **Australian citizen** aged 18 years or older must enrol and vote.

You **must vote** at every Federal, State and local council election.

If you do **not** vote you may have to pay a fine.

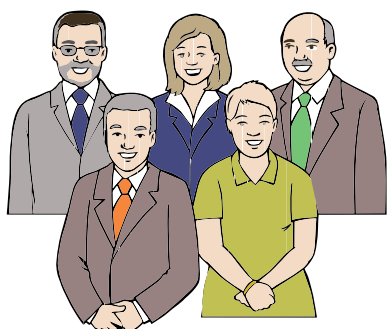
# Your local council



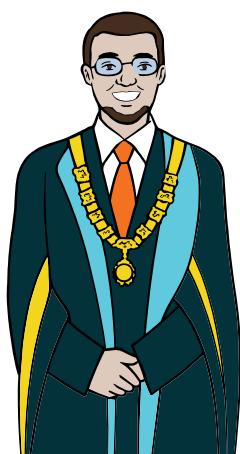
## Victorian local councils

Victoria has 79 local councils. Your local council depends on where you live.

For local council elections you vote for people who make decisions about your local area.



These people are called **councillors**.

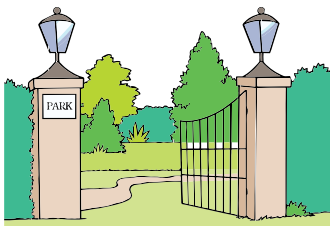


The leader of the council is called the **mayor**.

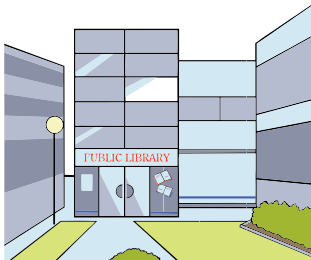
# Your local council

## What councillors do

Your councillors make decisions about

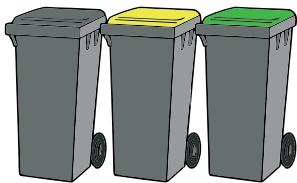


- parks and sporting grounds



- community services

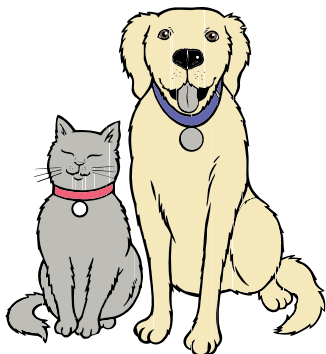
- libraries



- roads and footpaths

- rubbish and recycling

- public buildings and halls

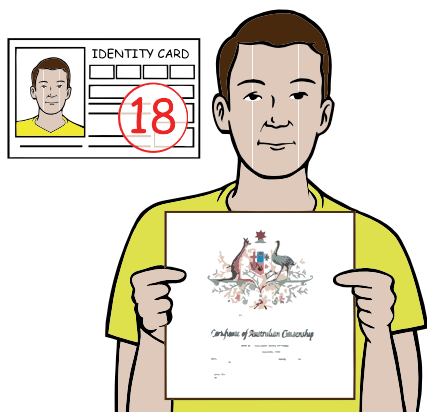


- dog and cat registration

- building and construction



# About voting



## Enrol to vote

To vote you must enrol. Every **Australian citizen** aged 18 years and over must enrol to vote.

You must fill in an **enrolment form**.

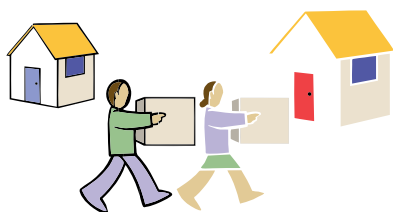
Get an enrolment form

- at any post office
- from the Victorian Electoral Commission
- online from [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au)



Since the last election have you

- changed your address?
- changed your name?



You **must** tell the Victorian Electoral Commission.

# About voting

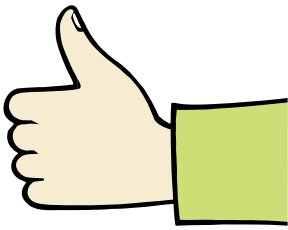
## Who else can enrol to vote?

You may also be able to enrol to vote if you pay **rates** to your local council.

Call your local council for more information.



# About voting

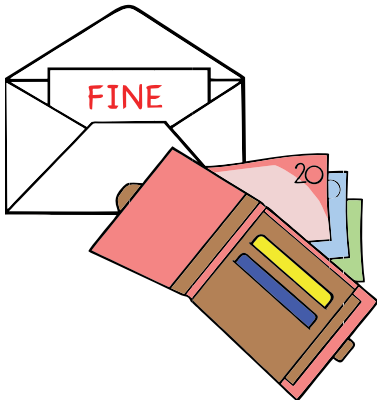


## Do I have to vote?

**Yes.**

You **must** vote in your local council election if

- you are an Australian citizen
- you are enrolled to vote
- you live in the council area
- you are under 70 years old.



If you **do not** vote you will be sent a letter.

You will be asked why you did **not** vote.

**You may have to pay a fine.**

# Council elections

OCTOBER 2016						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## When is my local council election?

All attendance local council elections are held on the same day.

Attendance election means you need to go to a voting centre on election day.

Attendance local council elections are held on the fourth Saturday in October every 4 years. This is called **election day**.

In 2016 **election day** is 22 October.

# Council elections



## How do I vote?

Go to a voting centre in your council area on election day.

Read pages 15 to 19 for information about how to vote.



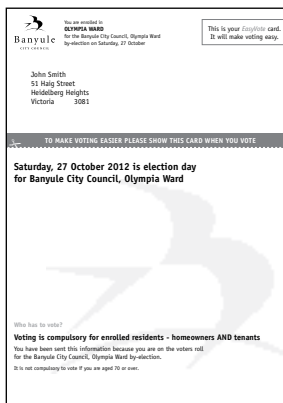
Many councils have postal elections.

If you get a ballot paper in the mail then your council is having a **postal** election. You do **not** need to go to a voting centre.

You need to read the **Vote in Local Council Postal Elections Easy English Guide**.

Contact the Victorian Electoral Commission if you are unsure.

# Council elections



## Where is my voting centre?

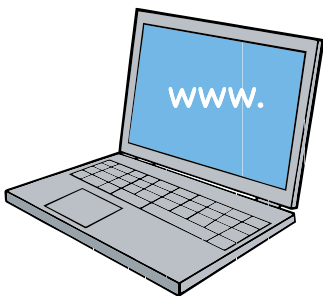
You will get an **EasyVote** letter in the mail.

The letter will tell you where the voting centres for your council are.

You can also



- Look in your local newspaper before election day.



- Go to the Victorian Electoral Commission website.  
The website is [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au)



- Call the Victorian Electoral Commission  
on 131 832.

# Voting

## What to do at the voting centre



You tell the election official your name and address.

The election official marks your name off the roll.

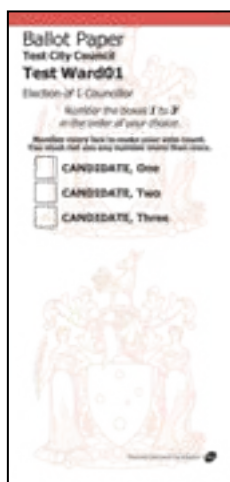
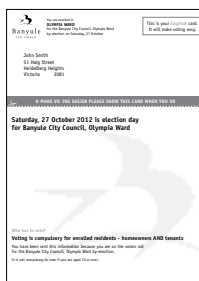
You get a **ballot paper**.

Or

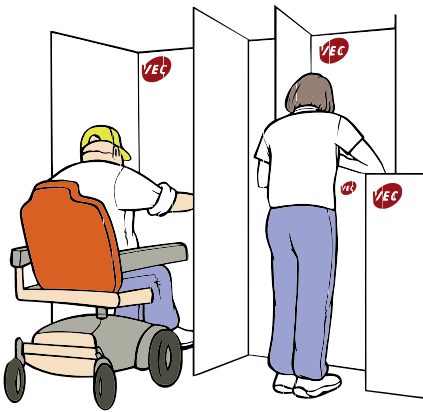
You give your **EasyVote** letter to the election official.

The election official marks your name off the roll.

You get a ballot paper.



# Voting



## What to do with your ballot paper

Take your ballot paper to the voting booth.

You can ask an election official to help you.

Fill in the ballot paper. Read page 17 to find out how to fill in your ballot paper.



Take your finished ballot paper to the **ballot box**.

The election official can help you put your ballot paper in the ballot box.



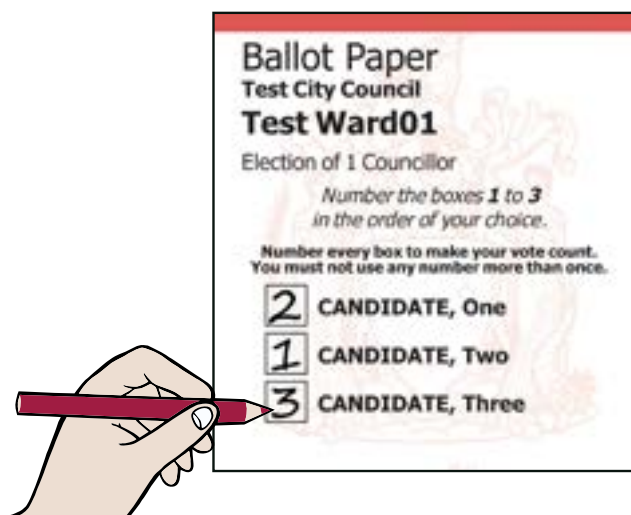
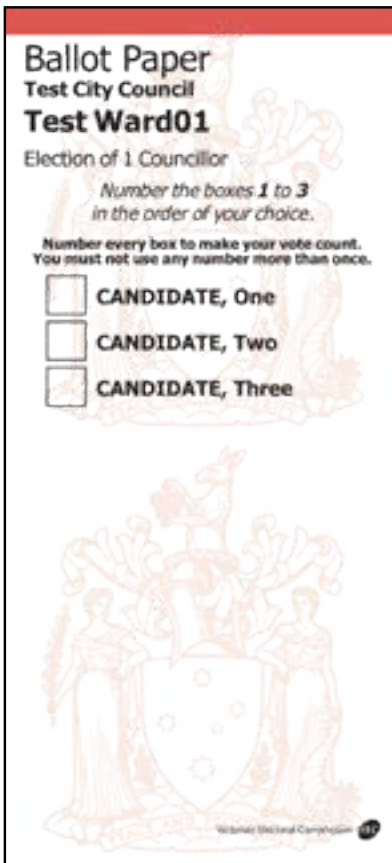
# Voting

## How do I fill in my ballot paper?

This is an example of a ballot paper.

You must write a number in each box on the ballot paper.

- write 1 in the box next to the person who you want to win
- write 2 in the box next to your second choice
- keep numbering until all the boxes have a number
- use numbers only.



Your vote counts.

# Voting

## What if I cannot vote on election day?

You can vote before election day.

- You can vote at an early voting centre. Your **EasyVote** Letter will tell you where your early voting centre is and when it is open.

Or



- You can vote by post. Get a **postal vote** application form from the election office or the Victorian Electoral Commission website.
- You will be sent a **ballot pack** after you mail your application form.
- Complete your ballot paper and return it in the envelopes provided.

Or

- Call the VEC. Read page 25.



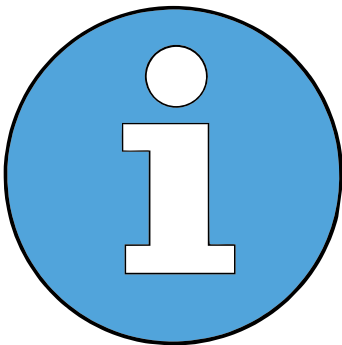
# Candidates



## Who do I vote for?

People who want to be on the local council are called **candidates**.

Each person has different ideas. You need to pick the person or people you think will do the job best.



## How do I get more information about each candidate?

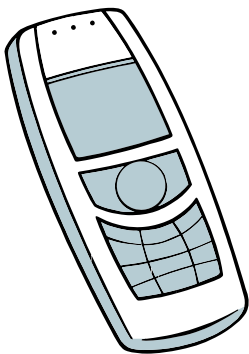
Each candidate writes about their ideas.

These are called **how-to-vote cards**.

- How-to-vote cards are given out at the voting centre on election day.

**Or**

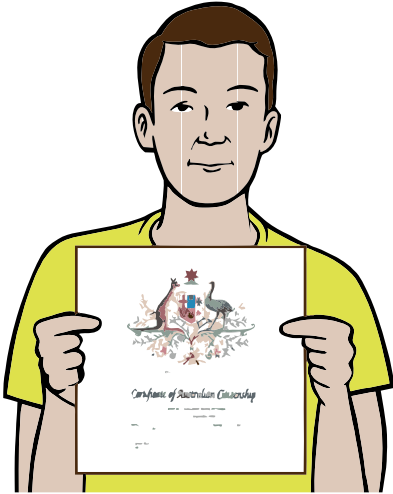
- You can call the candidate and talk to him or her.



This information will help you make a choice.

# Candidates

## How do I become a candidate?



- you must be an Australian citizen
- you must be enrolled for this election.

You must fill out a form. This form says you want to be a candidate.

You must pay \$250. You get this money back if you win or get enough votes.



Give your form and payment to the **returning officer**.

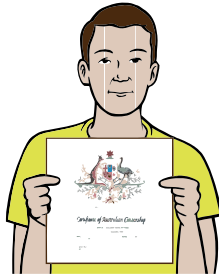
Some people cannot be a candidate.

Ask the Victorian Electoral Commission for more information.

Read page 25 for how to contact us.

# Meanings

## What do words mean?

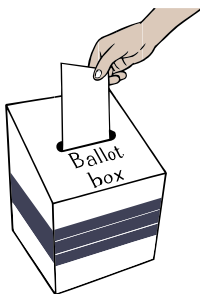


**Australian citizen** — a person who was born in Australia.

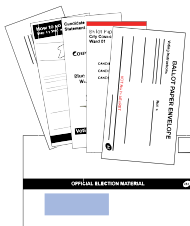
**Or**

Who was born overseas but now lives in Australia.

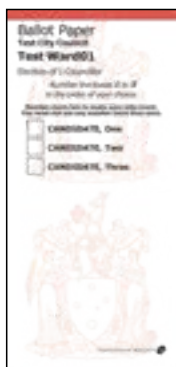
This person has made a special promise to follow all the laws of Australia. This person has become an Australian citizen.



**Ballot box** — a box in the voting centre where you put your filled-in ballot paper.



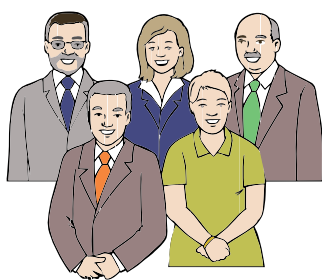
**Ballot pack** — a set of papers, envelopes and instructions to use for postal voting



**Ballot paper** — a sheet of paper you write your vote on.

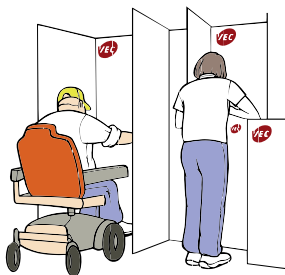
# Meanings

**Candidate** — a person who wants to be a councillor.



**Councillors** — a group of people chosen by the people in the local area to make decisions about this area.

**Democracy** — a country where people have the right to vote for who is in charge.



**Election** — choosing someone or making a choice.

**Election day** — the day you go to vote.



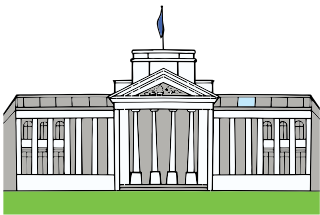
**Election office** — the place where your local council election is run.

# Meanings

**Election official** — a person who works at elections.

**Enrol** — put your name on a list to vote.

**How-to-vote card** — a page of information about candidates and how to vote for them. These are given out at voting centres on election day.



**Local council** — your local area and the people who make decisions about it.



**Mayor** — the leader of councillors.



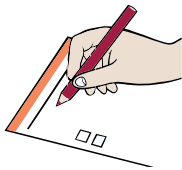
**Postal vote** — having your ballot paper mailed to you so that you can vote at home. You must apply to get a postal vote.

# Meanings



**Rates** — money you pay to your local council. Your council uses this money for roads, public buildings and community services.

**Returning officer** — the person in charge of your local council election.

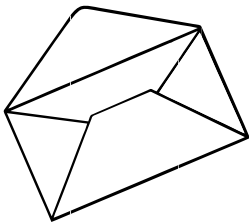


**Vote or voting** — to make your choice on your ballot paper.

**Voting centre** — the place you go to on election day to vote.



# More information



## Contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

**Website** [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au)

**Email** [info@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@vec.vic.gov.au)

## Postal address

Victorian Electoral Commission,

Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

## Phone

131 832

+ 61 3 8620 1100 (from outside Victoria)

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment phone National Relay Service 133 677 and ask for 03 8620 1100.

For speech-to-speech relay phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 03 8620 1100.

# How do I get this information in a different language?

## አማርኛ (Amharic)

የበለጠ ዝርዝር መረጃ እና በአስተርጓሚ እርዳታ ከፈለጉ በተለፎን (03) 9209 0190 መደወል።

## عربي (Arabic)

إذا أردت المزيد من المعلومات التفصيلية، وبحاجة للإستعانة بمترجم شفهي، يُرجى الإتصال على الرقم (03) 9209 0100.

## Bosanski (Bosnian)

Ako su vam potrebne detaljnije informacije i pomoć prevodioca, nazovite (03) 9209 0191.

## ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការព័ត៌មានលម្អិតថែមទៀតហើយឱងជំនួយពីអ្នកបកប្រែភាសាស្នំមន្ត្រីសព្វលេខ (03) 9209 0192។

## 中文繁體 (Cantonese)

如果需要詳細資料和傳譯員協助，請電 (03) 9209 0101。

## Hrvatski (Croatian)

Ako su vam potrebne podrobnije informacije i pomoć tumača, nazovite (03) 9209 0102.

## دري (Dari)

اگر به معلومات مفصلتر و کمک ترجمان ضرورت دارید، به تيلفون شماره (03) 9209 0193 زنگ بزنيد.

## Dinka

Na koor yin lëk juëc cï kek cuiir ku kuwoony de athok /raan ë thok waaric, yuöpä (03) 9209 0119.

## Ελληνικά (Greek)

Αν χρειάζεστε πιο λεπτομερείς πληροφορίες και τη βοήθεια διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνήστε στο (03) 9209 0103.

## Italiano (Italian)

Se hai bisogno di informazioni più particolareggiate e dell'assistenza di un interprete, telefona al (03) 9209 0104.

## 한국어 (Korean)

더 자세한 내용을 원하시거나 통역 서비스가 필요하시면 (03) 9209 0194번으로 연락하시기 바랍니다.

# How do I get this information in a different language?

## Македонски (Macedonian)

Ако сакате подетални информации и помош со преведувач јавете се на (03) 9209 0105.

## 中文简体 (Mandarin)

如果需要详细资料和传译员协助，请电 (03) 9209 0106。

## فارسی (Persian)

اگر اطلاعات مفصل تر یا کمک یک مترجم را می خواهید به شماره (03) 9209 0195 تلفن کنید.

## Русский (Russian)

Если вам нужна более подробная информация и помощь переводчика, то позвоните по номеру (03) 9209 0196.

## Српски (Serbian)

Ако су вам потребне детаљније информације и помоћ тумача, позовите (03) 9209 0107.

## Soomaali (Somali)

Haddii aad u baahan tahay macluumaad faahfaahsan oo intaas ka badan iyo caawimada mutarjumka, wac (03) 9209 0108.

## Español (Spanish)

Si necesita información más detallada y la asistencia de un intérprete, llame al teléfono (03) 9209 0109.

## Türkçe (Turkish)

Daha ayrıntılı bilgi edinmek istemeniz ve bir çevirmene gerek duymanız durumunda, (03) 9209 0110 numaralı telefonu arayın.

## Việt-ngữ (Vietnamese)

Nếu quý vị cần thêm thông tin chi tiết và sự giúp đỡ của thông dịch viên, hãy điện thoại số (03) 9209 0111.

## All other languages

For enquiries in all other non-English languages call our interpreting service on 9209 0112.

## Other Easy English Guides available from the VEC:

- Vote in Local Council Postal Elections
- Vote in the Melbourne City Council Elections
- Vote in Victorian State Elections
- Homeless not voteless



Address all enquiries to the Victorian Electoral Commission,  
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000



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