



# Homelessness Australia

*The peak body for homelessness services in Australia  
Advocating for homeless people's rights and working to end homelessness in Australia*

**For release 7am Friday 5 October**

## **“I’m homeless – and I vote!”**

**Up to 60,000 of the estimated 100,000 Australians with no fixed address could fail to participate in this year’s election.**

There are special provisions for homeless people to register on the electoral role and to vote on election day. However, few people know that this is possible.

“Elections have been lost and won on fewer than 60,000 votes”, Homelessness Australia Executive Officer Simon Smith said today.

“If you know someone without a safe, secure home – maybe a young person couch-surfing, a family or a friend living in emergency accommodation, or even someone sleeping rough -let them know that it’s easy to enrol. They have a right to vote, like other Australians”.

People experiencing homelessness can use a ‘no fixed address enrolment form’ available at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au). It is also possible to enrol as a silent voter, useful for people who cannot disclose their names on the electoral roll due to significant privacy concerns. This can be helpful for women forced from their homes as a result of domestic violence.

“Changes to electoral laws mean that people need to enrol as soon as possible. The rolls may close as soon as the day after the election is called”, said Mr Smith.

Homelessness Australia welcomes the AEC’s distribution this week of information on how to vote to homelessness support services, such as women’s refuges and youth drop-in centres.

“If any single group of Australians stands to benefit from greater electoral participation, it’s those experiencing homelessness”, Mr Smith said.

### **For further information and comment:**

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