

Civics & Citizenship Education

‘Voting in the classroom’

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The purpose of
The Australian Electoral Commission
3 Es ?

- To maintain the electoral roll
- To conduct elections & referendums
- To provide education & information programs



- *Get Voting*
- National Electoral Education Centre
- Professional Learning
- Education Resources

www.aec.gov.au

The aims of this workshop

- To consider ways of encouraging students to be engaged in the skill of decision-making
- To experience running a classroom election
- To highlight the AEC's educational services and resources

Election Simulation

- Enrolment
- Tools of an election
 - Ballot box
 - Ballot papers
- Security
- 'Free & fair'
- Scrutiny



Election Scenario

'As part of our healthy eating program we are going to make a decision about a what 'healthy' food we will all have for a snack next week'.

Nomination of 'candidates' can be done through class suggestion - four is optimal, but more can be used.

'As there are several 'candidates' involved, as a voter, you will have to decide on the order of the snack that you 'prefer'. So, your first choice snack will be number 1, second choice number 2 etc. until all candidates are numbered'.

'Democracy Rules' – Running an election in your school p.107

'Get Voting' – AEC website

Election Scenario

CANDIDATES

APPLE

BANANA

ORANGE

PEACH

Election Scrutiny

	1 st count	Transfer votes	2 nd count	Transfer votes	3 rd count
Peach					
Apple					
Banana					
Orange					
TOTAL					

Formal Votes

Informal Votes

Absolute majority 50%+

Representation

Where do you find the framework for the Federal Government?

What is the structure of the Federal Parliament?

How are we represented in the Federal Parliament?

How many members represent us?

What defines electorates?

What are the terms of office?

'Democracy Rules'

Topic 2 : Representing everyone!

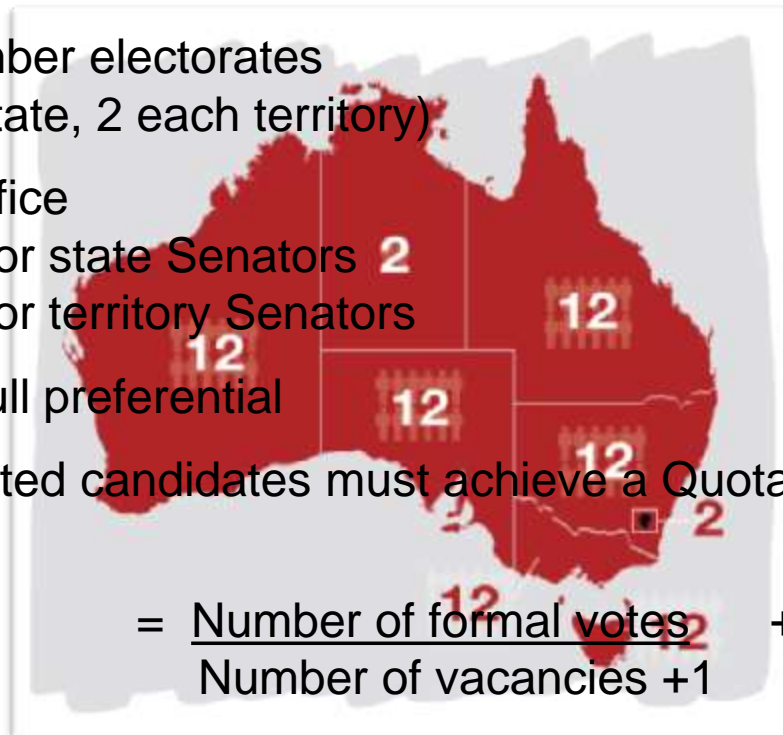
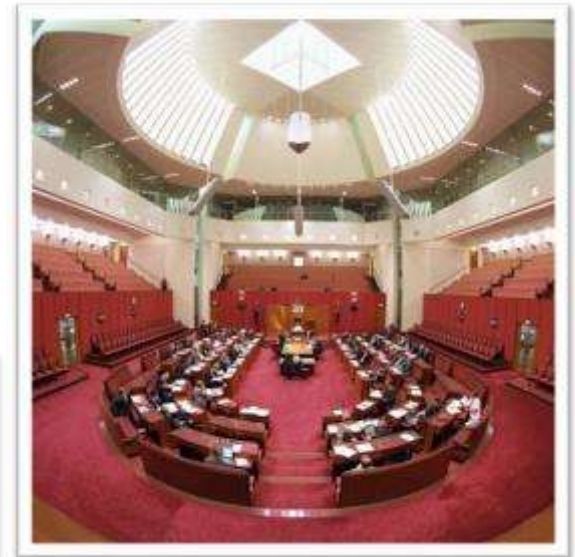
Topic 3 : What's your vote worth?

Representation

The SENATE

- House of Review
- States' House - representation on a state basis (Section 7 – Australian Constitution)
- Multi-member electorates (12 each state, 2 each territory)
- Term of office
 - 6 years for state Senators 2
 - 3 years for territory Senators
- Voting – full preferential
- To be elected candidates must achieve a Quota (or proportion) of votes

$$\text{Quota} = \frac{\text{Number of formal votes}}{\text{Number of vacancies} + 1} + 1$$

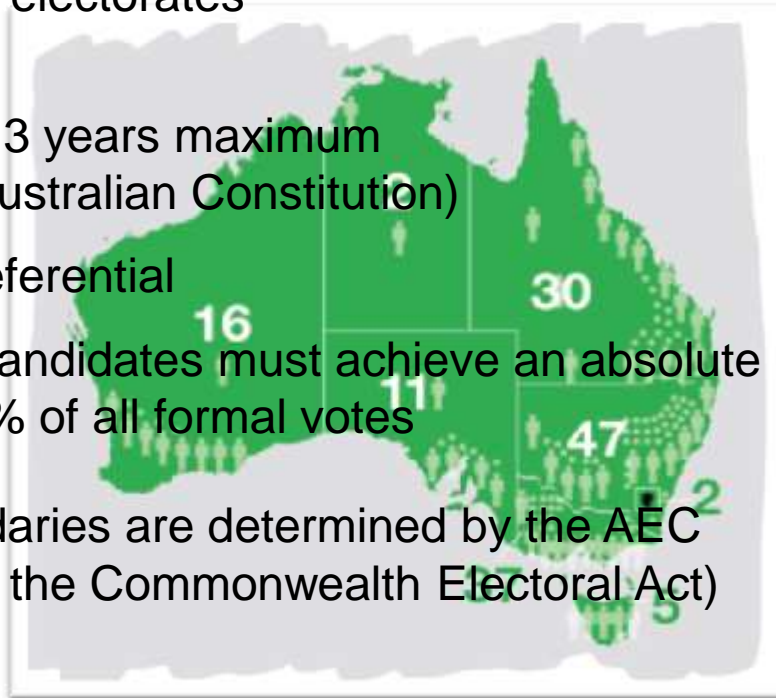


- Electoral boundaries are formed by state & territory borders

Representation

The HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

- House of Government
- People's House - representation based on population (Section 24 – Australian Constitution)
- Single member electorates (150 nationally)
- Term of office - 3 years maximum (Section 28 – Australian Constitution)
- Voting – full preferential
- To be elected candidates must achieve an absolute majority - more than 50% of all formal votes
- Electoral boundaries are determined by the AEC (As required by the Commonwealth Electoral Act)



Get Voting

self-serve election resources



<http://education.aec.gov.au/getvoting/>

Get Voting

Need a hand?

Get advice or arrange a visit from your local election expert

➔ Contact us

Does your school hold elections?
Get Voting makes it easy to run a fair and fun school election.

Why use *Get Voting*?

- Organise your school election with minimum fuss, spread over 2-4 weeks
- Address Civics and Citizenship curriculum outcomes by giving students practical experience of voting
- Elect suitable student leaders while modelling good democratic practice

Importantly, *Get Voting* encourages the school community to value voting – developing students' trust, confidence and motivation to participate in their democracy.

Start using *Get Voting*

5 steps for running an election

Read about the 5 steps here or [download the resources](#) to get the full package in print format.

1
Get started

Planning and nomination

2
Get organised

Pre-election preparation

3
Get informed

Voter education & campaigns

4
Get voting

Election day

5
Get results

Counting & announcement

Australian Professional Standards for Teachers

Completing this ***Voting in the classroom*** workshop will contribute 1 hour of professional learning and addresses the following professional standard descriptors

STANDARD 2 - Know the content and how to teach it

FOCUS AREA 2.1 – Content and teaching strategies of the teaching area

PROFICIENT TEACHER 2.1.2 – Apply knowledge of the content and teaching strategies of the teaching area to develop engaging teaching activities

STANDARD 3 - Plan for and implement effective teaching and learning

FOCUS AREA 3.2 – Plan, structure and sequence learning program

PROFICIENT TEACHER 3.2.2 – Plan and implement well-structured learning and teaching programs or lesson sequences that engage students and promote learning

STANDARD 6 - Engage in professional learning

FOCUS AREA 6.2 – Engage in professional learning and improve practise

PROFICIENT TEACHER 6.2.2 – Participate in learning to update knowledge and practice, targeted to professional needs and school and/or system priorities

And finally

Any questions?



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission