

ESTIMATES BRIEF – HOT ISSUE

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2019

CURRENT ENROLMENT FIGURES, TRENDS ¹⁹**Issue**

For the 2019 federal election, more Australians were enrolled than ever before—both in terms of raw numbers and as a percentage of the eligible population.

Key facts and figures

- 16,424,248 Australians were enrolled to vote in the 2019 federal election, representing an enrolment rate of 97.0 per cent.
- The youth enrolment rate (18-24 year olds) at the federal election was 88.8 per cent. Like the general population, young people are enrolled at record levels.
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- The Indigenous enrolment rate remained steady and for 2018-19 the national estimated Indigenous enrolment rate is at 76.6 per cent.

Key points

- The Australian Electoral Commission works to ensure the full electoral participation of all eligible Australians. The electoral roll for the 2019 federal election was the largest and most complete ever.
- A record 16,424,248 Australians were determined as enrolled to vote in the 2019 federal election, from of an estimated eligible population of 16.9 million people. This represents an enrolment rate of 97.0 per cent, an increase on the previous record rate for the 2016 federal election.

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Background

2019 federal election

- A record 16,424,248 electors were enrolled from of an estimated eligible population of 16.9 million people. This represents a national enrolment rate of 97.0 per cent.
- Immediately following the roll close the AEC reported a preliminary enrolment rate of 96.8 per cent. This, however, was subsequently revised to 97.0 per cent following the application of more up-to-date eligible enrolment population estimates.
- The enrolment rate exceeded the AEC's target of 95 per cent in all states and territories except the Northern Territory, where it increased from 81.1 per cent at the 2016 election to 83.9 per cent.
- The youth enrolment rate (18-24 year olds) was 88.8 per cent. Like the general population, young people are enrolled at record levels.

Table: Summary of key enrolment metrics

Enrolment metric	FE2016	AMLPS	FE2019	Change between FE2016 and FE2019
Enrolled electors	15,676,659	16,011,891	16,424,248	↑ 747,589
Enrolment rate	95.0%	95.7%	97.0%	↑ 2.0 percentage points
Estimated not enrolled	816,437	724,055	509,891	↓ 306,546
Youth enrolment rate	86.7%	88.6%	88.8%	↑ 2.1 percentage points

Current state of the roll

- As at 30 September 2019, the national enrolment rate was 96.8 per cent, which is 0.2 percentage points lower than for the 2019 federal election.
- It is normal for the enrolment rate to decline following an election. The estimated number of people not enrolled has grown by around 37,000 since the election with the vast majority of these being people who turned 18 following the election.
- In the lead up to the 2019 election, the AEC conducted an enrolment stimulation exercise, targeting 410,000 people nationally who were not enrolled.

Youth enrolment

- Younger electors tend to enrol in proximity to an electoral event.
- The youth enrolment rate (18-24 year olds) as at 30 September 2019 was 86.5 per cent with 1,643,338 enrolled youth, a reduction of 2.3 percentage points since the federal election.
- While the AEC works to maintain the youth enrolment rate as high as possible, it is not unusual for the youth enrolment rate to improve at the time of a federal election and then decline between elections.

Indigenous enrolment

- The AEC commenced publication of Indigenous enrolment rate estimates by state and territory as at 30 June 2018.
- A previous national Indigenous enrolment estimate of 58 per cent was calculated in 2014 using a different methodology.
- The national Indigenous enrolment rate estimate remains steady and as at 30 June 2019 the rate was 76.6 per cent compared with 76.4 per cent in 2018.
- Any gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous enrolment rates is concerning.
- The AEC is working to ensure the full electoral participation of all eligible Australians and is investing in partnerships and targeted activities that extend its reach into remote communities. Remote Area Mobile Polling remains an important component of election service delivery.

Northern Territory enrolment

- Enrolment in the Northern Territory has shown consistent improvement.
- The enrolment rate in the Northern Territory increased by 9.8 percentage points between 30 June 2010 and 30 June 2019 while the national enrolment rate increased by 7.4 percentage points.

Northern Territory	Enrolment	Estimated Eligible Population	Enrolment rate	Estimated not enrolled
30/06/2010	118,401	158,894	74.5%	40,493
30/06/2011	121,919	155,559	78.4%	33,640
30/06/2012	122,715	155,537	78.9%	32,822
30/06/2013	126,934	156,552	81.1%	29,618
30/06/2014	130,857	161,868	80.8%	31,011
30/06/2015	129,133	162,780	79.3%	33,647
30/06/2016	133,553	164,012	81.4%	30,459
30/06/2017	137,773	165,876	83.1%	28,103
30/06/2018	138,581	165,118	83.9%	26,537
30/06/2019	140,064	166,136	84.3%	26,072

Public reporting

- A range of enrolment statistics are published regularly on the AEC website.

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REDACTION CODES

- 1 Personal Information (name) redacted.
- 2 Personal Information (date of birth) redacted.
- 3 Personal Information (photograph) redacted
- 4 Personal Information (facsimile of signature) redacted.
- 5 Personal Information (facsimile of manuscript initialling) redacted.
- 6 Personal Information (Individual's address) redacted.
- 7 Personal Information (individual's telephone number) redacted.
- 8 Personal Information (individual's opinion) redacted.
- 9 Personal Information (opinion about individual) redacted.
- 10 Personal Information (employment history) redacted.
- 11 Personal Information (qualifications) redacted.
- 12 Personal Information (health) redacted.
- 13 Personal Information (identifying individual) redacted.
- 14 Business information (Bank Account details) redacted.
- 15 Business information (Billing Account details) redacted.
- 16 Business information (internal operations) redacted.
- 17 Legal Professional Communication redacted.
- 18 Deliberative material redacted.
- 19 Irrelevant material redacted.
- 20 Electoral Roll material redacted.
- 21 Tests, examinations or audits material redacted.
- 22 Management or assessment of personnel material redacted.
- 23 Proper and efficient conduct of the operations of AEC material redacted.
- 24 Lawful methods or procedures for preventing, detecting, investigating, or dealing with matters arising out of, breaches or evasions of the law.
- 25 Trade Secrets.
- 26 Commercial valuable information.
- 27 Financial interests of the Commonwealth.
- 28 Property interests of the Commonwealth.