

# Commonwealth Electoral Act 1973

No. 7 of 1973

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## AN ACT

To lower to Eighteen Years the Age Qualification for Enrolment, Voting and Candidature for Parliamentary Elections.

[Assented to 16 March 1973]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen, the Senate and the House of Representatives of Australia, as follows:—

Short title  
and citation.

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* 1973.

(2) The *Commonwealth Electoral Act* 1918–1966\* is in this Act referred to as the Principal Act.

(3) The Principal Act, as amended by this Act, may be cited as the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* 1918–1973.

Commence-  
ment.

2. This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

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\* Act No. 27, 1918, as amended by No. 31, 1919; No. 14, 1921; No. 14, 1922; No. 10, 1924; No. 20, 1925; No. 17, 1928; No. 2, 1929; No. 9, 1934; No. 19, 1940; No. 42, 1946; No. 17, 1948; Nos. 10 and 47, 1949; No. 106, 1952; No. 79, 1953; No. 26, 1961; No. 31, 1962; Nos. 48 and 70, 1965; and Nos. 32 and 93, 1966.

3. Section 39 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting from sub-section (1) the words "twenty-one years" and substituting the words "eighteen years".
- Persons entitled to enrolment and to vote.
4. Section 39A of the Principal Act is amended—
- (a) by omitting from paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) the words "twenty-one years" and substituting the words "eighteen years"; and
- (b) by omitting sub-sections (3) and (4).
- Unenrolled members of Defence Force serving outside Australia.
5. Section 49 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting the words "twenty-one years" (wherever occurring) and substituting the words "eighteen years".
- Lists of deaths and marriages to be forwarded.
6. Section 69 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting from paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) the words "twenty-one years" and substituting the words "eighteen years".
- Qualifications of members of House of Representatives.
7. Section 115 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting from sub-paragraph (iv) of paragraph (b) of sub-section (1) the words "twenty-one years" and substituting the words "eighteen years".
- Questions to be put to voter.
8. Where, on the date of commencement of this Act or within the period of three months commencing on that date, a person becomes entitled to enrolment by virtue of the amendment made by section 3, sub-section (2) of section 42 of the Principal Act has effect as if that person had become entitled to enrolment on the day next following the expiration of that period or on the day on which he attains the age of twenty-one years, whichever is the earlier.
- Transitional provision.
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