

# What is a referendum?





You may have heard people talk about our Constitution— which sets out how Australia is governed.

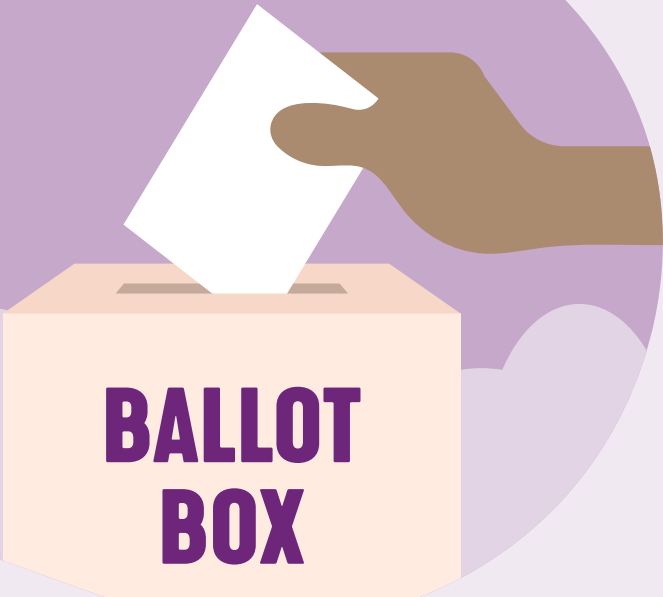


From time to time, some people may want to change the Constitution.




But they can't change it without asking the Australian people first. That's where a referendum comes in.

A referendum is done by voting.



**BALLOT  
BOX**



Everyone who is 18 years or over and an Australian citizen must enrol and vote.

The referendum voting process is run by the Australian Electoral Commission, or AEC, which also runs elections in Australia.



**AEC  
STAFF**

On referendum voting day you will need to visit a polling place at your local community centre, hall or school and fill out a ballot paper.

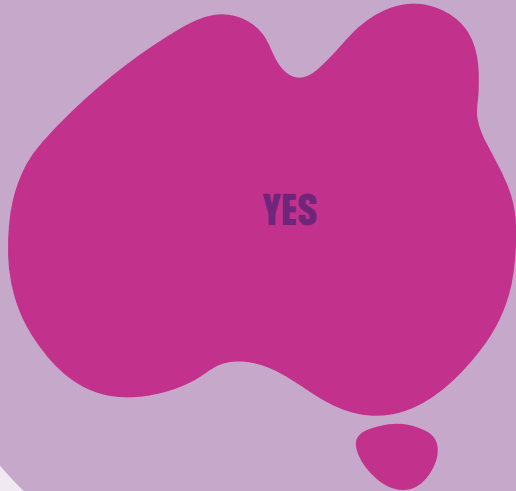


The ballot paper will ask you a question and you can vote by writing either "YES" or "NO". The way you vote is your choice.

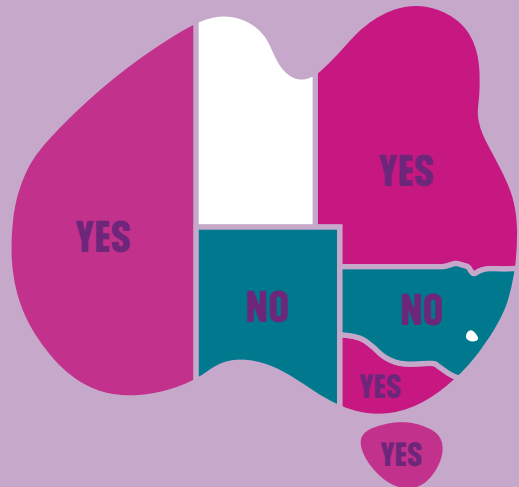


## A referendum is passed when:

A national majority (more than half) of voters from all states and territories vote YES.



**AND**

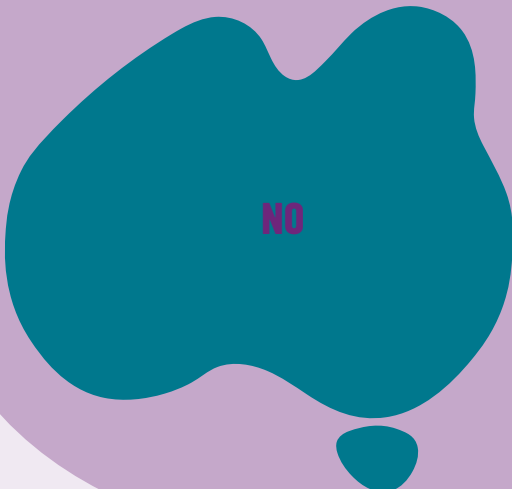


A majority (more than half) of voters in at least four of the six states vote YES.

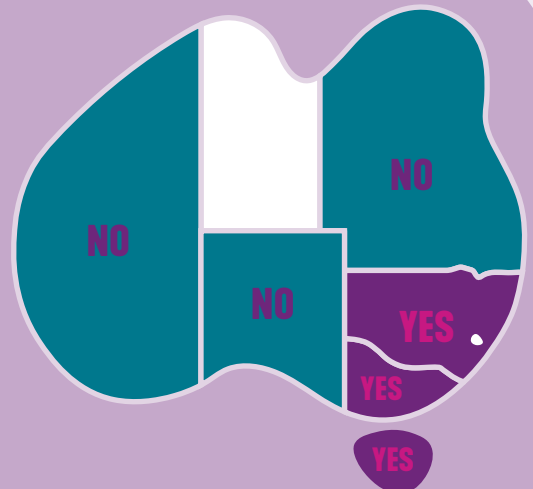
For a referendum to pass it must achieve a double majority.

## A referendum is NOT passed when:

A national majority (more than half) of voters from all states and territories vote NO.



**AND/  
OR**



A majority (more than half) of voters in at least three states vote NO.



If you know you are going to be away from community or unable to vote on voting day, you can visit an early voting centre or vote by post.

The AEC is also sending teams to many remote areas to collect votes.





To be ready to vote in a referendum you need to get on the Electoral Roll or, if you're already on the roll, make sure your details are up to date.

To get your name on the Electoral Roll you can enrol online at the AEC website at [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au)....

...or get a paper enrolment form at any AEC office....

ENROL TO VOTE OR UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

123 Your Street Name,  
Your Suburb

...or call us on 13 23 26 to send you a form in the mail.



