

Itinerant (No Fixed Address) Electors

Itinerant (Including Homeless) Enrolment

Conditions Governing Itinerant (No Fixed Address) Enrolment

Responsibility for Decisions Regarding Itinerant Enrolment

The Divisional Returning Officer (DRO) makes all approval, rejection and cancellation decisions for itinerant enrolment and registration. [s.96(1) CEA] & [s.97 CEA]

Appeals against decisions made by a DRO are sent to the AEO for the State/Territory of the division in which the enrolled address is located claimed for.

Note: For the ACT, appeals to itinerant enrolment decisions are made to the AEO for NSW.

Availability of Itinerant Enrolment

Itinerant enrolment is available to people living in Australia who meet all enrolment qualifications other than permanently residing in any division. [s.96 CEA]

Electors experiencing homelessness are entitled to itinerant enrolment even if they live in temporary accommodation.

Enrolment is not compulsory for itinerant and homeless people. [s.101(1) CEA]

'Residing' in a Division

Applicants for itinerant enrolment must not have resided in the division for one month or longer.

'Resides' implies a permanent (or real) home, and for the purposes of the CEA, means having a 'real place of living' which includes the place of living to which a person, when temporarily living elsewhere, has a fixed intention of returning for the purpose of continuing to live at that place. [s.96(12) & s.4 CEA]

'Residing in a division' does not mean merely living there. Many seasonal workers live for three or four months in one place, depending on employment opportunities. Homeless people may stay in temporary accommodation for more than one month when it is available.

Therefore, do not refuse an application for itinerant enrolment simply because the person has lived in a division for more than one month.

Disqualifications

Applicants are not eligible for itinerant enrolment if they:

- Have a real place of living (that is, a place that they have a fixed intention of returning to live, even if they are temporarily living elsewhere)
- Intend to leave Australia for one month or longer
- Are under 18 years of age
- Are travelling in Australia on an extended trip, but intend to return to a fixed address or
- Regularly travel from their fixed address (real place of living) for extended periods to work (e.g. farm workers, fishing crews, mine workers).

In these cases, refer to Absence from Enrolled Address and Enrolment Systems Guide.

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