



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS

Inquiry into the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Lowering Voting Age and Increasing Voter Participation) Bill 2018

Issue date: 5 September 2018

Should 16 and 17 year olds vote?

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters is holding a public hearing to see whether 16 and 17 year olds should be given the vote.

This hearing, at the Victorian Parliament Committee Rooms on Thursday, 6 September 2018, is part of the Committee's inquiry into the Lowering the Voting Age and Increasing Voter Participation Bill. This Bill would enfranchise 16 and 17 year olds and make it possible for unenrolled citizens to cast a provisional vote on election day.

A number of youth groups, schools, and academics will be appearing as witnesses during a full-day public hearing. The full program can be found on the [Committee's website](#).

Acting Chair, Mr Andrew Giles MP, said "this inquiry is an opportunity to bring young people into the democratic process. The number of submissions we have received from youth organisations and school-aged young people has been incredibly encouraging and we look forward to engaging with the views of those who the Bill will affect the most".

The Bill, introduced by Senator Jordon Steele-John of the Australian Greens, would introduce non-compulsory voting for 16 and 17 year-olds and allow 14 and 15 year-olds to enrol to vote.

Public hearing details:

Date: Thursday, 6 September 2018

Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Location: Committee Room G3, Victorian Parliament Committee Rooms, 55 St Andrews Pl

The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live

Media enquiries:

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For background information:

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
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