



# 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

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Issue date: 4 March 2019

## **Committee to hear views on lowering the voting age**

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters is holding a public hearing in Perth to gather further evidence as it considers the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Lowering Voting Age and Increasing Voter Participation) Bill 2018. The Bill, as proposed by the Greens, would extend voluntary voting rights to 16 and 17 year-olds, allow enrolment for 14 and 15 year-olds, and permit a provisional vote on Election Day for unenrolled citizens.

“The Committee wants to hear directly from people and organisations with an opinion on this Bill,” said Senator James McGrath, Committee Chair.

“Australians are proud of our strong culture of democracy. It is important that legislation designed to alter this culture of democracy be considered carefully.

Today’s young people will soon be the keepers of our democratic traditions, and we recognise the importance of their input into our considerations.”

The hearing will be held at the Legislative Assembly Committee Office, Perth, and will include evidence from individuals, representatives of youth organisations, as well as academics and legal experts.

The full program can be found on the [Committee’s website](#).

#### **Public hearing details:**

Date: Tuesday, 5 March 2019

Time: 11:00am – 3:00pm (AWST)

Location: Committee Room 2, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth

The hearing will be broadcast live at [aph.gov.au/live](http://aph.gov.au/live)

#### **Media enquiries, contact the Chair’s office:**

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#### **For background information, contact the secretariat:**

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

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