Welcome to

Why it is important to make your vote count this 2019 elections

Organized by

Islamic Council of Queensland

Council of Imams Queensland
Agenda

• Introduction
• Objectives of this workshop
• TOPIC 1: Australian Democracy (Mustafa Ally)
• TOPIC 2: Policy positions of parties (Rita Markwell)
• TOPIC 3: Why your vote counts (Rita Markwell)
• TOPIC 4: How to vote (Mustafa Ally)
• ACTIVITIES: Practice forms and quizzes (Mustafa Ally)
Introductions

- Acknowledgments
- Objectives of the workshop
- MC: Muhammad Khatree
- Opening prayer
- President of ICQ
- Presenters
TOPIC 1: AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

DR. MUSTAFA ALLY

How our political institutions are structured
Three levels of government in Australia

**Federal (National)**
- International relations
- Defence
- Pensions/ welfare
- Immigration

**State (or Territory)**
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Roads and transport
- Police and ambulance

**Local (Councils or Shires)**
- Rubbish collection
- Pet control
- Local parks
- Town planning
Parliament of Australia

THE QUEEN + GOVERNOR-GENERAL + SENATE + HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES = PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
Who makes the decisions?

- Candidate
- Policy
- Party
- Independent
How do you know which candidate to vote for?

- Television, newspapers and radio
- Candidates post mail information to you
- Candidate and party websites
- Talk to your friends and family
Do you have to vote?

• If you are an Australian citizen and over 18 years of age you must enrol and vote. It is the law.

• Voting gives you a say about the issues which affect you every day.

• It is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens to enrol and vote.

• Failure to vote will cost you a $20 penalty.
SOME USEFUL FACTS

• Electorates
  • 151
  • Average of 100K voters in each

• Senators
  • 76
  • 12 from each State and two from ACT and NT
  • 6 year term

• House of representatives
  • 151
  • 1 from each of the 151 electorates
  • 3 year term
TOPIC 2: POLICY POSITION OF PARTIES

RITA MARKWELL

What do they stand for
TOPIC 3: WHY YOUR VOTE COUNTS

RITA MARKWELL

How can you make a difference
TOPIC 4: HOW TO VOTE

DR. MUSTAFA ALLY

Don’t waste your vote
Are you on the Electoral roll and enrolled to vote?

• You must be correctly enrolled by
  • 8pm local time Thursday 18 April 2019.

• Find your electorate
Where do you go to vote?

• Polling places usually located at local schools, community halls, church halls or public buildings
If you are unable to attend a polling place on election day you can still vote.

If you know that you will not be near a polling place on election day.
- Go to an early voting centre or apply for a postal vote.

If you know that you will not be in Australia on election day.
- Go to a pre-poll voting centre or apply for a postal vote.

**EARLY VOTING CENTRES**
- Open MONDAY 29 APRIL

**POSTAL VOTES**
- Forms obtainable online or AEC office
- Must reach AEC by 6PM WEDNESDAY 15 MAY
What happens on election day?
1. Arrive at the polling place
2. You may be offered how-to-vote cards
3. You may need to line up
4. Go to the issuing table
5. Answer three questions
6. You will be given two ballot papers
7. Go to a voting screen
8. Fill in the ballot papers - follow the instructions
9. Fold the ballot papers, put them in the ballot boxes
10. Community Events
You can ask for help at any time
• In a federal election you vote for representatives to the House of Representatives and to the Senate.

• Your vote can only be counted if you correctly complete both your ballot papers.
HOW TO FILL YOUR FORMS CORRECTLY
Australian voting system

• The Australian election system is a ‘PREFERENTIAL’ voting system, unlike many other countries where ‘first-past-the-post’ wins the election.
• Also, the election system of the House of Representatives is different from that of the Senate.
• Mathematics of proportion (preference) are used to determine the winning candidate (not first-past-the-post).
• White ballot papers for the House of Representatives
• Green ballot papers for the Senate.
Senate voting

• To vote in the Senate election you will be given a white ballot paper.

• This ballot paper has a black line across it.

• You can vote above the line OR below the line.
Senate voting – above the line

If you want to vote above the line, you must number at least six boxes from 1 to 6.
Senate voting – below the line

If you vote below the line you must number at least twelve boxes from 1 to 12.
NOTE

• Voting above the line is easier but you are leaving the party to choose their candidates to represent you.
• Voting below the line requires more knowledge of the candidates to determine the preferences.
House of Representatives voting

• To vote in a House of Representatives election you will be given a green ballot paper.

• Number every box in the order of your choice.
Informal votes

• An informal ballot paper is one that has been incorrectly completed or not filled in at all.

• Informal votes are not counted towards any candidate but are set aside.

• A ballot paper is informal if:
  • Incomplete numbering - number '1' only
  • Incomplete numbering - other incomplete numbering
  • Ticks and crosses instead of numbers
  • Scribbles, slogans and other protest vote marks
  • Illegible numbering
  • Writing their name on the paper
HOW ARE YOUR VOTES COUNTED (VIDEOS)

• House of Representatives
• Senate
ACTIVITIES: MUSTAFA ALLY
Practice Senate voting

Practice House of Representative voting

QUIZ

How well do you know your politics?
THANK YOU FOR COMING ALONG

Let us know what you thought of the session and provide any constructive comments and suggestions.
7 REASONS WHY VOTING IS ENCOURAGED BY ISLAM

All the reasons why Australian Muslims should vote this election!

1. **We Must Obey the Law of the Land**
   Part of being a Muslim in Australia means that we are bound to follow its laws. That includes obeying laws requiring us to vote.

2. **God Will Not Change Our Condition Until We Change It Ourselves**
   God states in Verse 11 of Surah Ar-Ra'd that ‘Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.’ Part of changing our condition is doing all we can to make our world a greater place. Voting is thus a blessing that allows us to change our society in great ways. We cannot just rely on Allah to help us, but rather we must actively try to better our world.

3. **We Must Render Justice**
   A crucial aspect of Islam is the concept of justice. As Muslims we must use whatever means possible to ensure that justice is upheld. In the context of Australia, that means voting for a just leader that will protect the rights of all Australians.

4. **We Must Protect Ourselves**
   Protecting ourselves and the Muslim community is a religious duty. One of the best ways of protecting our ummah in Australia is to vote. We must use our votes to elect politicians that stand against Xenophobia, Islamophobia and racism.

5. **Voting Can Create Great Changes**
   From climate change to education, politics affects everything around us. That’s why it’s so important that we use our votes to change politics for the better. The future of our world lies in your hands!

6. **Voting Is Encouraged by Scholars**
   Many scholars, across varying schools of thought, have urged Muslims to vote. Such scholars include the Grand Mufti of Australia and the Australian National Imams Council.

7. **Not Voting Can Make Things Worse**
   By not voting for a candidate that would’ve upheld the rights of Australians, you can help their opposition win.