

Welcome to

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

Organized by



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

Local (Councils or Shires)



For example:

- Rubbish collection
- Pet control
- Local parks
- Town planning

State (or Territory)



For example:

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Roads and transport
- Police and ambulance

Federal (National)



For example:

- International relations
- Defence
- Pensions/ welfare
- Immigration

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.
 - <https://check.aec.gov.au/>
- Find your electorate
 - <https://electorate.aec.gov.au/>

The electorate you will vote in at each election is listed below:

Federal Division:	MORETON
State District:	TOOHEY
Local Government Area:	BRISBANE CITY
Local Ward/Division:	MACGREGOR

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.

EARLY VOTING CENTRES

- Open MONDAY 29 APRIL

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.

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 Ballot Paper
 State – Election of 6 Senators
 

You may vote in one of two ways
Either:
Above the line
 By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
		 				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MIST PARTY	RAIN PARTY	FOG/SUN PARTY	HUMID PARTY	BREEZE PARTY	CLOUD PARTY	


Or:
Below the line
 By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).


MIST PARTY	RAIN PARTY	FOG/SUN PARTY	HUMID PARTY	BREEZE PARTY	CLOUD PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names MIST PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names RAIN PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names FOG PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names HUMID PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names BREEZE PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names CLOUD PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names MIST PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names RAIN PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names SUN PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names HUMID PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names BREEZE PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names CLOUD PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names
	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names RAIN PARTY				<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names CLOUD PARTY	

SAMPLE

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 Ballot Paper
State – Election of 6 Senators



You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
		 			 		
5	2	1		3	6	4	
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY		

Or

Below the line
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).



PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY		UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY		<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names	
	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY					<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names	

SAMPLE

Senate voting – below the line

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
















Senate Ballot Paper
State – Election of 6 Senators

You may vote in one of two ways













Either

Above the line
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
  PARTY	  PARTY	   PARTY	  PARTY	  PARTY	   PARTY		

Or

Below the line
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY		UNGROUPED
 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	8 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	6 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	10 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	4 SURNAME Given Names	 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT
1 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	5 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	3 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	9 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	11 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	 SURNAME Given Names	7 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT
 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	2 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	12 SURNAME Given Names PARTY		 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	 SURNAME Given Names	
	 SURNAME Given Names PARTY					 SURNAME Given Names	

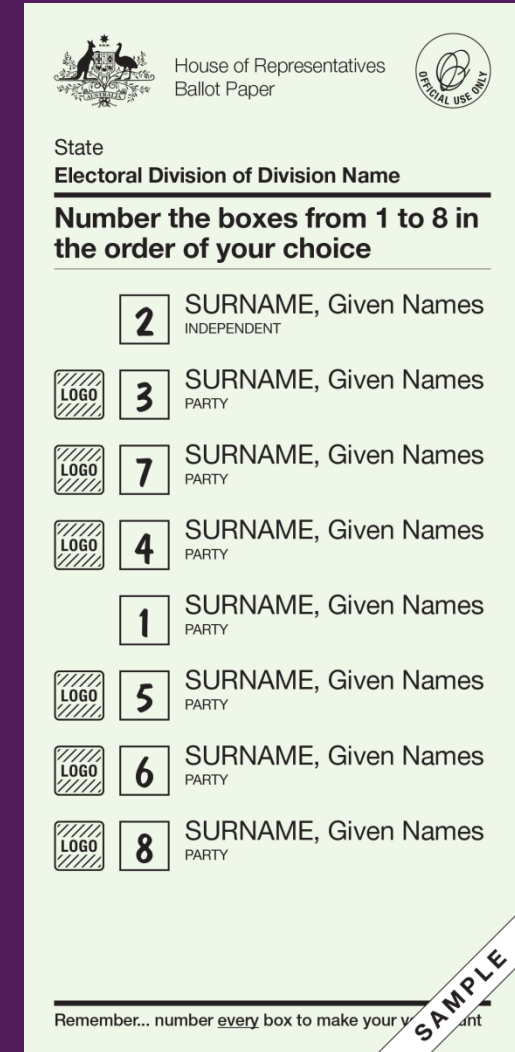
SAMPLE

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.



The image shows a sample ballot paper for the House of Representatives. At the top left is the Australian coat of arms, and at the top right is the text "House of Representatives Ballot Paper" and a circular "OFFICIAL USE ONLY" stamp. Below this, the voter is asked to provide their "State" and "Electoral Division of Division Name". A bold instruction reads: "Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice". There are eight numbered boxes, each with a "LOGO" icon to its left. Box 2 is for an independent candidate, while boxes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are for candidates from various parties. At the bottom, a reminder says "Remember... number every box to make your vote count", and a diagonal "SAMPLE" watermark is present in the bottom right corner.

House of Representatives
Ballot Paper

State _____
Electoral Division of Division Name _____

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice

2 SURNAME, Given Names
INDEPENDENT

3 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

7 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

4 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

1 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

5 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

6 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

8 SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

Remember... number every box to make your vote count

SAMPLE

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

- [https://www.aec.gov.au/voting/how to vote/practice/practice-senate.htm](https://www.aec.gov.au/voting/how_to_vote/practice/practice-senate.htm)

Practice House of Representative voting

- <https://www.aec.gov.au/Voting/How to vote/practice/practice-house-of-reps.htm>

QUIZ

How well do you know your politics?



Islamic Council of
QUEENSLAND



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!



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.

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.

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.

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.