

Electoral rolls

Info Guide 3.7

What electoral rolls are available?

The State Library of Queensland holds electoral rolls covering the following ranges:

Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1860-1900 (Ask for Guide at Desk) (Open access microfilm at MFL 324.94) ➤ 1860-84, 1889 State [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.6409943 ➤ 1895, 1896, 1900, 1901 State [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.6409943 ➤ 1903-1989 FICHE/S 324.94/q ➤ 1989-2008 MFCS 324.94/q ➤ 1903 Commonwealth [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.6409943 ➤ 1905, 1906, 1909, 1910, 1912 State [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.6409943 ➤ 1913 Commonwealth [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.6409943 ➤ 1915 State [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.6409943 ➤ 1922, 1934, 1941, 1949, 1959 Commonwealth [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.6409943
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1842-64 (Ask for guide at the Desk) (Open access AO fiches 768-779); ➤ 1903-2008 MFCS 324.94/n ➤ 1903 [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.640994 2003- ➤ 1913 State [CD-ROM] QCFS 929.3944 2010
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1841-1851 MFCS 324.945 1994 ➤ 1899 only MFCS 324.6409945 1986 ➤ 1856; 1903-2008 MFCS 324.94/v ➤ 1903 [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.640994 2003-
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1856-1900 – imperfect MFL 324.640946 ➤ 1914-2008 MFCS 324.94 com/t ➤ 1903 [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.640994 2003-
ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1928+ MFCS 324.94 com/a
WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1901-2008 MFCS 324.94 com/w ➤ 1901 [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.640994 2003- ➤ 1939, 1949 [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.64099441 2010
SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1991-2008 MFCS 324.94 com/s ➤ 1909 [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.640994 2003- ➤ 1939, 1943 [CD-ROM] QCFS 324.640994 2010
NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1922-2008 MFCS 324.94 com/nt ➤ 1884-1940 QCFS 929.39429 2006
New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1853-1874/75; 1880/81-1887; 1890; 1893-1894; 1896-1897; 1899-1900; 1902-1903; 1905/6; 1908; 1911; 1914; 1919; 1922; 1925; 1928; 1931; 1935; 1938; 1941; 1943; 1946; 1975; 1978; 1981 MFCS 324.993 (See also <i>New Zealand Electoral Atlas</i> FAMHIS 328.3345 1989) ➤ 1881, 1893, 1896 [CD-ROM] QCFS 929.393 2010 ➤ 1911, 1935 [CD-ROM] QCFS 929.393 2010

For current electoral rolls visit your nearest local Australian electoral commission office.

http://www.aec.gov.au/About_AEC/Contact_the_AEC/index.htm

Check **ancestry.com** (Library edition) available *onsite only* at the State Library to search across electoral rolls for:

- Australian Capital Territory: 1928, 1935, 1937-1954, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1977, 1980
- New South Wales: 1842-1864, 1930, 1933, 1936-37, 1943, 1949, 1953-54, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1977, 1980
- Northern Territory: 1922, 1929, 1934, 1937-1954, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1977, 1980
- Queensland: 1903, 1905, 1913, 1919, 1921, 1925, 1930, 1936-37, 1943, 1949, 1954, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1977, 1980
- Tasmania: 1914, 1919, 1922, 1928, 1936-1954
- Victoria: 1856, 1903, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1924, 1931, 1936-37, 1942-43, 1949, 1954, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1977, 1980
- Western Australia: 1903, 1906, 1910-11, 1916, 1925, 1931, 1936-37, 1943, 1949, 1954, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1977, 1980

Check findmypast.com.au (Library edition), available *onsite only* at the State Library, to search across electoral rolls for:

- Queensland: 1895, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915 (State) and 1903, 1913, 1922, 1934, 1949, 1959 (Commonwealth)
- New Zealand: 1853-1864, 1881, 1893, 1896, 1911

What information is on the electoral roll?

Information on the electoral roll includes the voter's full name, address and, between 1903 and 1984, the voter's occupation.

How are electoral rolls organised?

- **Check electoral maps for an electorate name.** Boundaries for an electorate change over time. For 19th century Qld and NSW electoral boundaries there are State Archives guides at the Desk. Post 1901 check *Commonwealth of Australia 1901-1988 electoral redistributions* held at the Desk
- **Until 1988:** rolls were arranged by state then by electorate, division and subdivision. Names were then organized alphabetically within the subdivision.
- **1989:** rolls were organized alphabetically within divisions by state.
- **From 1991:** rolls were organized alphabetically by name within each state.
- **Post 1901:** the State Library holds Commonwealth Rolls: these are organized by state.

What are annotated electoral rolls and how can they be used?

These rolls are marked with:

- the new surname of a recently married woman
- change of address
- date of notification of someone's death

As a result, these rolls can flag which other electorate to search or approximately when someone died. The rolls are held at:

- **1918-1968:** National Archives of Australia (www.naa.gov.au) (Commonwealth electorates)
- **1915-1992:** Queensland State Archives (www.archives.qld.gov.au) (State electorates)

NB: The annotated rolls are held at the two archival institutions only.

What is the silent electoral roll?

Not everyone enrolled to vote is on the published lists. It is compulsory to be on the electoral roll but not on the published list. Those involved in witness protection programs, police undercover work or victims of domestic violence are some examples of those who will not be found on the lists.

For additional information on electoral history check the Australian Electoral Commission website (http://www.aec.gov.au/Elections/Australian_Electoral_History/).

What is the history behind the “right to vote”?

- **19th Century:** a property qualification excluded some people from voting while others who owned property in different electorates could vote in each.
- **Compulsory enrolment:** From 1925, voting in Federal elections became compulsory for those over 21, and from 1973, for those over 18.
- Australian women who were British subjects, 21 years and older, gained the right to vote in:

South Australia	1894	Western Australia	1899
New South Wales	1902	Tasmania	1903
Queensland	1905	Victoria	1908
Australia (Commonwealth)	1902		
- Australian Aboriginal women and men who had been specifically excluded from the franchise in Australia by the *Commonwealth Franchise Act 1902* were granted the right to vote in 1962.

Source: AUSFOLIO Volume 2, Number 1 SOCOM Educational Resources 1993.

Need further information?

State Library of Queensland, Queensland Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank,

Reference Services. t. +61 7 3840 7810, w. www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry

Visit http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/pub/info_guides/collections/fh to access all family history Info Guides.