

Sponsor: Daylesford College

Refuter: Pasefika Navigators

Lowering the Victorian Voting Age Bill 2023

A Bill for an Act to lower the voting age in Victoria to 16 years. The Victorian Electoral Commission shall oversee and implement the administration of the electoral roll and promote the advertisement of the lowered voting age campaign, with support from local governments and secondary education schools.

This Bill aims to provide young people aged 16 to 18 years the option to vote and to have the same voting rights as those 18 or over. This Bill recognises that young people will be affected by government decisions, have jobs and pay taxes which contributes to government spending. Given this, young people aged 16 to 18 should be able to have a say in their choice of government representative.

A Bill for an Act relating to Lowering the Victorian Voting Age.

To be enacted by the Y's Victorian Youth Parliament.

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are;

- (a) To lower the voting age in Victoria to 16 years;
- (b) To give those aged 16 to 18 the option to vote in Victorian elections;
- (c) To give voices to young Victorians.

Clause 2 Commencement

This Bill shall commence upon receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria.

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill;

- (a) **Electoral roll** means a list of the names and addresses of electors who are eligible to vote at a particular election;
- (b) **Victorian Electoral Commission** means an independent and impartial body established under Victoria's Electoral Act 2002 which manages and oversees the State elections, local council elections, some statutory elections and polls;
- (c) **Young person** shall mean persons aged under 25;
- (d) **Youth Voting Management Board** means the Board established in this Bill to oversee and manage the ongoing implementation of lowering the voting age in Victoria to 16 years.

PART II—Establishment

Clause 4 Establishment of Youth Voting Management Board

- 4.1 The Youth Voting Management Board (YVMB) shall be established.
- 4.2 YVMB shall oversee;
 - (a) The implementation process of lowering the voting age;
 - (b) The ongoing management of lowering the voting age;
 - (c) The advertisement of lowering the voting age.
- 4.3 The YVMB shall have a minimum of one young person on the board.

Clause 5 Lowered Enrolment Age

- 5.1 A person shall be entitled to enrol on to the electoral roll from 14 years of age.
- 5.2 All persons over the age of 18 must be enrolled to vote, as per current legislation.

Clause 6 Lowered Voting Age

- 6.1 The voting age shall be lowered from 18 years of age to 16 years of age;
 - (a) A person who has attained 16 years of age shall be entitled to vote in a Victorian election or referendum;
 - (b) Voting shall not be mandatory for anyone under 18 years of age.

Clause 7 Advertisement and Promotion

- 7.1 An advertisement campaign shall be run by the VEC and overseen by the YVMB to promote the lowering of the Victorian voting age.

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- 7.2 This advertisement campaign shall run for six months from receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria, and be promoted by;
- (a) Local councils;
 - (b) Secondary schools.
- 7.3 The advertisement campaign shall raise awareness that young people aged 16 years and over have rights to vote in elections.
- (a) Continued advertisements will be managed by VEC and the YVMB.