



# Code of conduct

## Candidates, campaign workers and scrutineers in local government elections

### Code of conduct

These code of conduct requirements for candidates, campaign workers and scrutineers are to be read in conjunction with the electoral offences outlined in [Part 5](#) of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2021* (see electoral offences listed below).

The following additional conditions stipulate the behaviour expected at all voting centres and must be observed by all persons undertaking campaigning activities.

#### Candidates, campaign workers and scrutineers must not:

- use language that provokes violence towards other candidates, campaign workers or members of the public
- intimidate candidates or voters
- enter the prohibition zone set by the officer-in-charge of the voting centre unless duly appointed
- publish or display false information about other candidates
- plagiarise any other candidates' name, acronym or symbol
- offer any inducement or reward to a person to vote for a candidate
- destroy, remove or deface posters belonging to other candidates

A person who does not comply with these conditions may be removed from the voting centre by the officer-in-charge or by the police.

Penalties may apply.

### Electoral offences

#### 74 Dishonesty

(1) A person commits an offence if:

- (a) the person intentionally claims, or purports, to exercise a voting or other right in relation to an election; and
- (b) the person is not entitled to exercise that right; and
- (c) the person has knowledge of that circumstance.

**Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.**

(2) A person commits an offence if:

- (a) the person makes a misleading statement to an authorised officer in connection with an election; and
- (b) the person knows the statement is misleading.

**Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.**

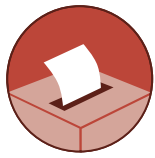
#### 75 Interference with electoral materials

(1) A person commits an offence if the person:

- (a) intentionally damages, destroys or interferes with voting papers or other materials prepared for official use in an election; and
- (b) does not have proper authority to do so.

**Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.**

*continued on next page*



### Electoral offences cont.

#### 76 Duty of those who assist voters

- (1) A person commits an offence if:
- (a) the person (the assisting person) intentionally assists a person to vote who is unable to vote without assistance; and
  - (b) the assisted person's ballot paper is not marked in accordance with the instructions of the assisted person and the assisting person has knowledge of that result.

**Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.**

- (2) A person commits an offence if the person:
- (a) accepts an application for postal voting papers, or completed postal voting papers, for posting or delivery to a returning officer; and
  - (b) fails to immediately post or deliver them to the returning officer.

**Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.**

- (3) An offence against subregulation (2) is an offence of strict liability.

#### 77 Conduct at voting centre

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person intentionally canvasses for votes in, or within 10 metres of the entrance to, a voting centre while the voting centre is open for voting.

**Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.**

- (2) A person commits an offence if the person intentionally wears or displays campaign material in a voting centre while the voting centre is open for voting.

**Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.**

- (3) A person commits an offence if:
- (a) the person is at a voting centre; and
  - (b) the authorised officer in charge of the voting centre gives a direction to the person; and
  - (c) the direction relates to the person's conduct; and
  - (d) the person intentionally fails to comply with the direction.

**Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.**