



IN THIS ISSUE

1. Electoral Act amendments
2. Enrolment
3. Electoral Amendments Bill 2016 (Serial 155)
4. Remote area enrolment
5. Political disclosure - Anonymous donations
6. Orientation Week 2016
7. Defence force expos
8. NTEC Facebook

ATTACHMENTS

- [Information sheet: Optional preferential voting](#)
- [Information sheet: Prohibition of political canvassing within 100 meters](#)
- [Information paper: Gerry Wood MLA Private member's bill - Electoral Amendment Bill 2016 \(Serial 155\)](#)

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1. Electoral Act amendments

The Electoral Legislation Amendments Bill (2015) was passed in the February sittings with the following changes made:

1. The Act now has an express statement regarding compulsory enrolment.
2. The Electoral Commissioner can determine the location of the ballot draw.
3. Changing the voting system to optional preferential voting (OPV).
4. Removing the eligibility criteria for early and postal voting so all electors can access these services.
5. Allowing postal voters to receive and return their ballot papers using email.
6. Extending the postal voting deadline by one week.
7. Prohibit political canvassing within 100 metres of the entrance to a polling place.

Attached to this newsletter are information sheets on optional preferential voting and the prohibition of political canvassing within 100 metres of a polling place. The NTEC is currently evaluating whether a system can be developed to enable the emailing of postal votes before the August election.

If you would like an information session on these amendments or any other matter relevant to the August election please contact Iain Loganathan on 8999 5000 or iain.loganathan@nt.gov.au.

2. Enrolment

The electoral boundaries determined in the 2015 redistribution come into effect at the August election. The following table shows enrolment for the 25 divisions as at 7 March 2016.

| Division | Enrolment | Division | Enrolment |
|------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|
| ARAFURA | 4 637 | JOHNSTON | 4 950 |
| ARALUEN | 5 527 | KARAMA | 5 174 |
| ARNHEM | 4 901 | KATHERINE | 4 987 |
| BARKLY | 4 897 | NAMATJIRA | 5 113 |
| BLAIN | 5 348 | NELSON | 5 284 |
| BRAITLING | 5 595 | NHULUNBUY | 5 411 |
| BRENNAN | 5 133 | NIGHTCLIFF | 5 278 |
| CASUARINA | 5 319 | PORT DARWIN | 4 878 |
| DALY | 5 018 | SANDERSON | 5 480 |
| DRYSDALE | 5 476 | SPILLETT | 4 511 |
| FANNIE BAY | 5 470 | STUART | 4 999 |
| FONG LIM | 5 127 | WANGURI | 5 174 |
| GOYDER | 5 280 | | |
| | | TOTAL | 128 967 |

3. Electoral Amendment Bill 2016 (Serial 155)

In the February sittings Mr Gerry Wood, MLA for Nelson, tabled a private members bill - Electoral Amendment Bill 2016 (Serial 155) that proposed changes to the financial disclosure provision (Part 10) of the Act. Mr Wood has proposed that a parliamentary committee consider the Bill and invite public comment. An [NTEC information paper](#) on the Bill is attached to the newsletter and is also available on the [website](#).

4. Remote area enrolment

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), in partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS), will conduct a remote enrolment program in 146 remote communities during April and May 2016.

Enrolment data indicating an elector's change of address will be loaded into the DHS remote services computer system, informing DHS staff which of their clients need to update their enrolment.

5. Political disclosure – Anonymous donations

Donations received must comply with the disclosure provisions of the Act – this includes donations received through crowd funding sites.

If candidates or political parties use crowd funding sites, the following is a reminder of their disclosure responsibilities under the Act.

Candidates are reminded that it is illegal to receive anonymous donations totalling \$200 or more. Election donations of \$200 or more must be reported with the necessary details included.

Political parties are reminded that it is illegal to receive anonymous donations totalling \$1000 or more. Election donations of \$1000 or more must be reported with the necessary details included.

For further information contact Wayne Harlock at wayne.harlock@nt.gov.au

6. Orientation Week 2016



Charles Darwin University held their annual Orientation Week (O Week) last month with the event running from Monday 22 until Friday 26 February.

The aim of O Week is to provide first-time and returning students with essential information on course requirements and the available campus and social services, while promoting social interaction amongst the students in a fun, friendly atmosphere.

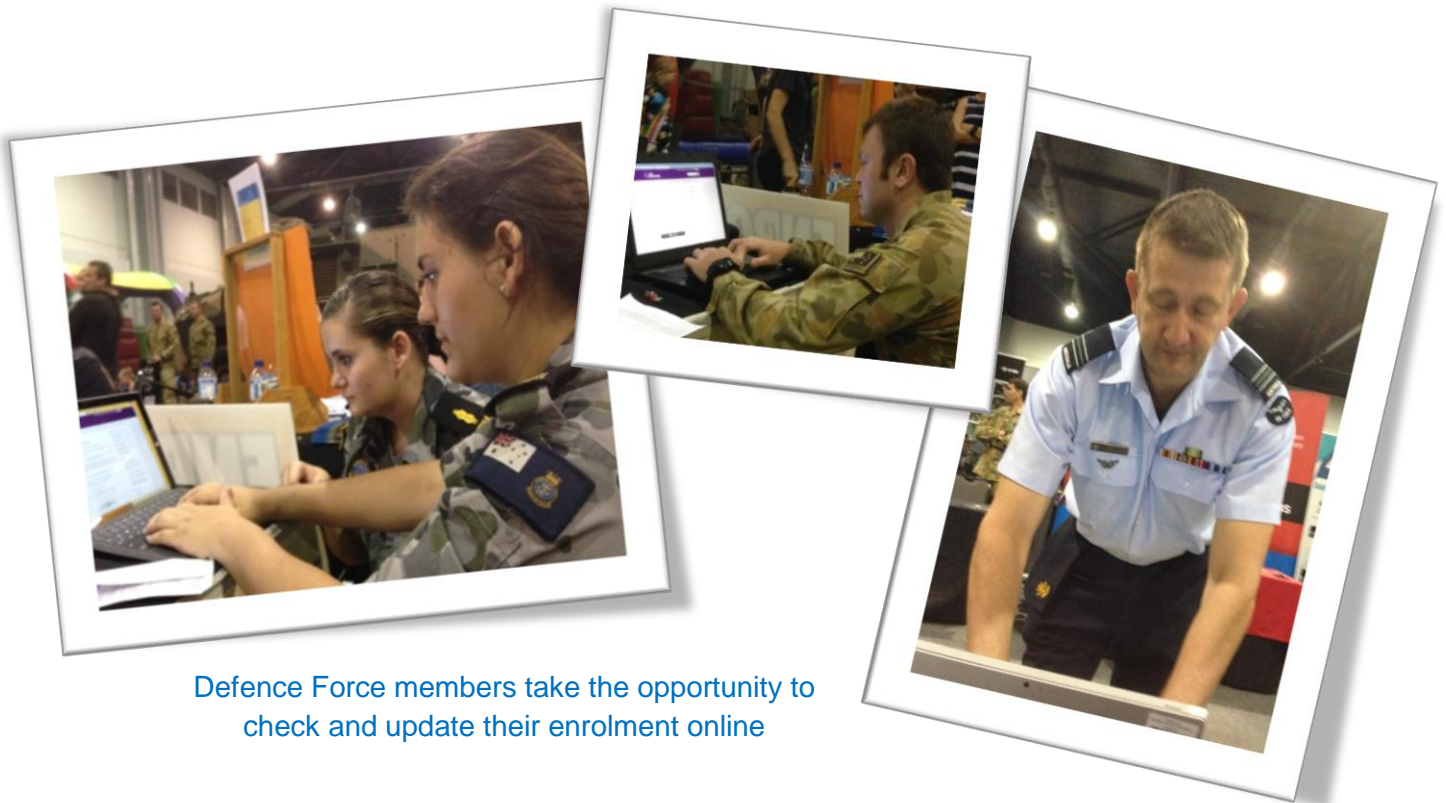
A high proportion of the new students are first time voters. A fact sheet, with instructions on how to enrol online and a return addressed enrolment form were issued to 650 students at the Darwin campus with a further 50 issued at the Alice Springs campus.

7. Defence force expos

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) hosted a Community Service Expo on Saturday 30 January at the Tindal Gymnasium in Katherine, with another taking place at the Darwin Exhibition Centre on Saturday 6 February. The expos were open to ADF members and their families as well as the general public. Exhibitors from Federal, Territory and Local Government areas, local community groups, health service providers and tourism operators attended both expos.

Given that a large number of ADF members relocate from interstate, enrolment stands were set up at both expos. The stands promoted online enrolment for the August NT Legislative Assembly general election and upcoming federal election.

Computers were used to enable people to check their enrolment and enrol online. Over the two events 26 enrolments were completed online, with over 60 people checking that their enrolment details were correct. A further 61 people filled out a hard copy enrolment form with a further 105 enrolment forms taken away.



Defence Force members take the opportunity to check and update their enrolment online

8. NTEC facebook

Find and like us on Facebook and stay up to date with election related stories as they're posted.

