



## Fact Sheet 3 – 2022 National Election

### FAQs ENROLMENT

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#### 1. Who can enrol?

- You are required by law to enrol to vote if you:
  - are a citizen of Papua New Guinea
  - are 18 years of age or older on or before the date of issue of the writ
  - have a right to vote under section 50 of the Constitution, and
  - have lived within your ward of residence for (6) months or more

The Constitution defines that a person is not qualified to enrol to vote if they:

- are under a sentence of death or a term of imprisonment exceeding nine months (s.50(1)(a));
- or have been convicted of an electoral offence in the three years preceding the election (s.50(1)(b)).

#### 2. What is Provisional Enrolment?

- To enrol to vote, a person must be 18 years or older, on or before the date the writs are issued (currently scheduled for 28 April 2022).
- However, enrolment updates take time, so the law provides for “provisional enrolment” so people who are currently 17 years old and who will turn 18 on or before the writs are issued, can submit their provisional claim for enrolment before they have turned 18.

#### 3. Why should people enrol?

- Before anyone can vote in the 2022 National Election, their name must be on the electoral roll for the ward they will vote in.
- Enrolment is compulsory by law for every eligible citizen of PNG – if a person who is eligible to enrol doesn’t enrol at their first opportunity, it is an offence.
- Being enrolled means a person can vote in the 2022 National Election so they can take part in the democratic process and vote for a candidate of their choice.

#### 4. How do people enrol?

- First, they need to check if their name is on the electoral roll for the ward in which they are eligible and intend to vote.
- If it is not, they must talk to the Enrolment Agent who will help them submit a claim for enrolment.
- Only the Enrolment Agent can enrol you, so you must contact the Enrolment Agent in-person and submit a claim for enrolment with the agent.
- There are three types of enrolment:
  - New enrolment (for people who have not been enrolled before)
  - Transfer enrolment (for people who are already enrolled in another ward but have moved wards and resided in their new ward for 6 months), and
  - Provisional enrolment (new enrolments for 17 year-olds who will turn 18 on or before the issue of writs)

#### 5. When will enrolment take place?

- Enrolment Agents have been visiting all wards between January and March 2022.
- During this stage, **everyone** should take the opportunity to check their enrolment status.
- If their name is not on the roll for the ward in which they have resided for 6 months and intend to vote, they must submit a claim for enrolment with the Enrolment Agent.
- If a person needs to update their details (e.g. to record change of surname after marriage or to correct information), they should tell the Enrolment Agent at this time also.
- In April, before the writs for the election are issued, PNGEC intends to publicly display the Preliminary Roll for the 2022 National Election. Everyone is encouraged to inspect the Preliminary Roll when it is made available for public display.

#### 6. Do I still need to register before I can submit a claim for enrolment?

- Some wards were able to complete the enrolment request process; however, funding challenges meant some wards were not able to implement two separate activities.
- With the issue of the writs drawing closer, PNGEC streamlined the process for voters. As soon as Enrolment Agents visited a ward in January/February/March people could submit a claim for enrolment if they were not enrolled.
- PNGEC will continue to implement several quality assurance and integrity measures, including checking for multiple registrations and transfer claims to safeguard against a person being on the electoral roll more than once.

**7. Where does enrolment take place?**

- You should enrol in the ward in which you have resided for 6 months or more and in which you intend to vote.
- Enrolment Agents will visit every ward in every Province.
- Contact the Enrolment Agents in your ward for more information. They will help you enrol, transfer your enrolment, or update your enrolment details.

**8. How do people know when enrolment has started in their ward?**

- PNGEC Provincial Electoral Offices, Ward Enrolment Committees, Enrolment Agents, and awareness officers will communicate the roll update and display process in each ward.
- People should listen out for radio announcements, check community notices, and visit the PNGEC Facebook page for additional updates.

**9. How can people check the status of their enrolment?**

- The Electoral Roll will be made available in every ward.
- People must check it and ensure they are enrolled correctly.
- People can also download the Papua New Guinea Voter Roll Lookup app on Android phones to check their enrolment details.
- Even if a person voted in a previous election, they should check their details to confirm them.

**10. How does a person submit a claim for enrolment?**

- If a person's name is not on the electoral roll in the correct ward, they must notify the Enrolment Agent to complete a claim for enrolment form (Form 11).
- The Enrolment Agent will assist people to fill and sign the claim for enrolment form (Form 11).

**11. Can a family member enrol for me?**

- No.
- The electoral law does not allow for people to enrol on behalf of others.
- The claim for enrolment form must be signed in-person by the voter.

**12. What if I am away from my ward during the enrolment update?**

- People can download the Papua New Guinea Voter Roll Lookup app on Android devices to check the status of their enrolment from anywhere.
- However, to submit a claim for enrolment form, you must talk to the Enrolment Agent for your ward in-person.

- To update your enrolment details, you must also talk to the Enrolment Agent for your ward in-person.
- Only the Enrolment Agent can enrol you or update your details, so you must contact the Enrolment Agent in-person and submit a claim for enrolment or request to correct your details with the agent.

**13. What happens if a person has moved wards between elections?**

- People who voted in previous elections but have moved to a different ward (and have resided there for 6 months), are responsible for making sure they are enrolled for the correct ward.
- If you have moved wards, please:
  - check your enrolment details to see if you need to transfer your ward of enrolment tell the Enrolment Agent,
  - submit a claim for transfer of enrolment with the Enrolment Agent, and
  - during the public display and verification of the Preliminary Electoral Roll, confirm your enrolment status.

**14. How is the roll update being funded?**

- A key factor in the ability to conduct a comprehensive exercise is the timely release of funds.
- The Government has now released the funds for the roll update exercise and PNGEC has adjusted the roll update process and schedule of activities.
- The Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs is also working to support the roll update process, including through financial support.

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