

Fijian Elections Office Takes Postal Voting Awareness and Voter Registration to Fijian Communities Across Australia

Overseas Voter Awareness Programme — South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania

24 June – 4 July 2026



Fijian community members and seasonal workers fill the venue at an evening awareness session in Renmark, South Australia.

A Fijian Elections Office team travelled across South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania between 24 June and 4 July 2026, delivering nine voter awareness sessions in eight locations to Fijian communities living and working in Australia.

The programme, joined by Electoral Commissioner Susana Teresia Naisara, focused on helping overseas Fijians understand how to take part in the upcoming General Election — who is eligible to vote, how to apply for a postal ballot, and how to return a completed ballot before the deadline.

Sessions were held in Lobethal and Renmark in South Australia; Mildura, Shepparton, Geelong and Melbourne in Victoria; and Hobart and Launceston in Tasmania. Attendance drew a mix of long-settled diaspora families and Fijians working in Australia under seasonal and labour mobility programmes.

Registering to vote is not the same as applying for a postal ballot

The clearest message to emerge from the deployment was a widespread misunderstanding among overseas voters.

Across every location visited, many Fijians believed that updating their voter registration details would automatically result in a postal ballot being posted to them. It does not. A **separate Postal Voting Application must be submitted** in order to receive a ballot paper.

This is the single most important thing for every Fijian overseas to know ahead of the General Election. Registering keeps your details current on the voter roll. Applying for a postal ballot is a second, separate step — and without it, no ballot will be sent.

Fijians overseas who wish to vote should ensure they complete **both** steps well ahead of the published deadlines.



Fijian Elections Office staff assist community members at a registration desk in Melbourne, Victoria.

Strong turnout from seasonal and labour mobility workers

Sessions held in regional centres with concentrated seasonal worker populations — Renmark, Shepparton and Launceston — filled venues to capacity. In Renmark, the session combined a community meal, fellowship and registration assistance, and ran into the late evening as workers arrived from their shifts.

Community Liaison Officers played a central role throughout, connecting the team with employers and community networks and making it possible to reach large numbers of workers in a single visit.

Evening sessions consistently drew the strongest attendance, reflecting the working hours of Fijians employed on farms, in abattoirs and in caregiving roles.



Community members receive assistance completing their voter details, Renmark, South Australia.

Most visits involved updating existing details

The majority of assistance provided during the deployment involved address updates and replacement voter cards rather than new registrations — a sign that many Fijians in these communities are already on the roll, and that the priority now is ensuring they know how to actually receive and return a ballot.

What Fijians overseas should do now

- **Check your registration details are current**, particularly your overseas postal address.
- **Submit a Postal Voting Application** — this is a separate step from registration and is required to receive a ballot.
- **Apply early.** Postal delivery to and from overseas takes time, and completed ballots must be returned before the legal deadline.
- **Contact the Fijian Elections Office** if you are unsure of your status or need assistance.

The Fijian Elections Office thanks the community representatives, Community Liaison Officers and church and community groups across South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania whose support made this deployment possible.

For more information on overseas voting, contact the Fijian Elections Office.

Editorial notes for the web team

Material deliberately excluded from this summary

- **Voter roll figures (Section 2 of the source report).** The verified roll figure and the projection to writ day form a rebuttal to public criticism of roll integrity. Recommend issuing these as a standalone Commission statement rather than folding them into an operational summary.
- **Constitution Review Commission submission (Section 5).** An unrelated workstream; out of scope for a deployment summary.
- **Named commercial employer.** The employer named in the source report carries an asterisk, suggesting the name is unconfirmed. Publishing an employer name — and the number of its workers reached — requires that employer's sign-off. Referred to generically here.
- **Operational recommendations (Section 6).** Venue lead times and the Geelong turnout shortfall are internal planning matters that read as self-criticism out of context.
- **Attendance numbers.** The source report notes figures were observational, with people moving in and out of sessions. If firmer numbers exist, adding them would strengthen the piece considerably.

Photographs

Three photographs are embedded above. All show identifiable individuals and require consent before publication. Many attendees are seasonal and labour mobility workers, for whom being publicly linked to a Fijian government activity may carry visa or employer sensitivities — worth confirming through the Community Liaison Officer.

A fourth photograph from the source report — a worker holding up his voter card — is the most engaging image in the set but is not embedded here. The card is held up to the camera; at original resolution the name and ID number may be legible. It should be cropped or blurred, and the subject's written consent obtained, before any use.

The page 6 photo collage from the source report is not recommended for web use: two images are rotated 90 degrees, the header text is cut off mid-word, and several frames show travel and personal moments rather than programme activity.