



Booth Volunteer Guide

Thank you for signing up to be a Booth Volunteer!

GetUp members will be showing up in force at the most strategic polling booths and electorates across Australia to ensure the last thing people see before they cast their ballot is a friendly GetUp member's face and a #WriteYes pamphlet. Because it's not just about making our voices heard, *it's about making them matter.*

These voting guides are the cornerstone of GetUp's referendum day efforts that will see thousands of volunteers handing out at hundreds of booths in 75 electorates across Australia, to put our calls for First Nations justice front and centre on 14 October.

Volunteering on Referendum day is one of the most impactful ways to push for change on the issues we care about this Referendum. **With so much on the line, your presence has never been more important. Thank you for stepping up.**

Let's do this,

Amy, Kaz, Holly, Justine and Emily for the GetUp team 🧡

Are you a pre-poll volunteer too?

GetUp will be active at pre-poll booths in a selection of seats only. If you've also stepped up to be a pre-poll volunteer, please read the following sections of this guide to prepare you for your pre-poll shift: [Connecting with voters](#), [What to bring](#), [Take photos](#), [AEC rules](#).



The following must-read info can be found in this guide

3 Roster on

The goal

Communicate changes

Booth roster

Training

4 Connecting with voters

Copy of the Pamphlet

Some tips & our Key message

8 Referendum day

What to bring

Referendum day support

When you arrive at your booth

Overlapping shifts

If the next volunteer doesn't show

Clean up

Morning Captain Instructions

Take photos!

13 Code of Conduct and AEC rules

16 Checklist

Roster on

Your booth is managed by one dedicated **Rostering Volunteer**, who is responsible for calling and rostering on volunteers to about 10 booths. It's a huge job, and takes hours of their time each week. So, if you have a missed call or text, please help them out by giving them a call back.

The goal

Your Rostering Volunteer will ask you to volunteer at the **highest priority booth within a reasonable distance from your location**. Their goal is to roster volunteers onto booths with the highest voter count first, and only then fill other booths. So please follow their guidance about the most impactful place to roster you. Because this Referendum is so tight, you'll also be asked if you can roster onto *two or more* shifts on election day. Please think about if you could make this work.

It's your Rostering Volunteer's responsibility to call you within a couple of days of signing up to roster you on. If you don't hear from them, let GetUp know by emailing refday@getup.org.au

Communicate changes

If your situation changes or you need to change your volunteer shift, please tell your Rostering Volunteer **as soon as possible**. You can find their contact details in the email you received when you were rostered on with the subject line: "*You've been rostered on at [booth name]*". If you have any trouble getting through to your Rostering Volunteer, please email refday@getup.org.au

Booth roster

In the week leading up to Referendum day, GetUp will send you a copy of your complete booth roster. This will include the contact details of volunteers rostered on before and after you, and your support contact for the day. Your roster can't be shared with you earlier than this, otherwise you may have an incomplete or incorrect roster due to last minute changes.

Training

This guide contains all the information you need to volunteer on referendum day. GetUp will also invite you to an online Volunteer Training in the week leading up to election day.

Connecting with voters

Being a Booth Volunteer is more than just turning up or handing out a #WriteYes pamphlet, it's about connecting with voters and having a real impact on Referendum day. Some states or territories could be decided by just a few hundred votes. This means **every interaction you have with a voter is critical**.

Here are some best practice tips for talking to voters:


Get to know your #WriteYes pamphlet:

To win the referendum, we have to defeat the cynical dog-whistling and misinformation from Advance Australia, Tony Abbott and Peter Dutton's 'no-alition' – *including the publicly funded 'no' campaign pamphlet*.

The way we do that is by getting our truth-telling #WriteYes pamphlet into the hands of the tens of thousands of voters who will head to the booths still undecided!

Our #WriteYes pamphlets work like 'how-to-vote' cards in elections – giving undecided voters clear information on how to write Yes and *why*.

The GetUp #WriteYes pamphlet is **based on the [Passing the Message Stick research](#), a groundbreaking project that identified messaging and strategy to build widespread support for First Nations justice**.

You can see a copy of the pamphlet below 

GetUp is an independent movement of over a million everyday people working to build a progressive Australia. Our team acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and work. We wish to pay respect to Elders - past, present and emerging - and acknowledge the important role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in building a more just and equitable Australia and the GetUp community.

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WHY I'M WRITING 'YES'

My name is Larissa Baldwin-Roberts, I'm a Wadjabul Wia-bal woman and GetUp's CEO. I've spent my whole life working with my community and lifting up the voices of others across the country for First Nations justice.

For decades, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have had solutions to improve the lives of our communities. However, successive governments have ignored our solutions and that needs to change. I'm writing 'YES' because First Nations communities know what we need best.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to decide who we are as a nation, the values we hold, and to build the power and political will that could catapult First Nations justice in this country.

I'm writing 'YES' to build on and honour the work of Elders, to take us a step closer to meaningful change that improves lives, and to create a better future for our young ones.

IT ALL STARTS WITH A 'YES'. ARE YOU WITH ME? "

Larissa Baldwin-Roberts, Wadjabul Wia-bal woman and GetUp CEO



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- The most powerful thing you can do in the lead up to the referendum is have conversations with your family and friends about First Nations justice and how we can win a resounding 'YES'.
- Call your family and friends, talk to them about why you're writing yes and encourage them to do the same.
- Join our calling parties to call people all across the country about the referendum.
- Join one of our local groups and get involved in your community with market stalls, letterboxing and community events.

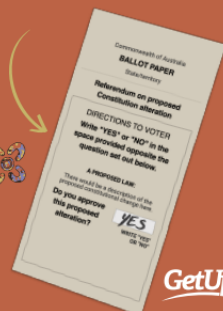


To join these actions, sign up here.

HOW YOU CAN WRITE 'YES'

On the referendum ballot paper you need to indicate your vote by clearly writing 'YES' in English in the box if you approve the proposed alteration.

Always follow the instructions on the ballot paper. Don't leave your vote up to chance or to be potentially questioned. Make your vote count.



GetUp!

THREE REASONS TO WRITE 'YES'

FIRST NATIONS LED SOLUTIONS:

When it comes to making decisions - whether it's improving health services to cultivating language and culture - communities know best. The current systems and structures that make these decisions often leave First Nations communities and people out of the process. This is a chance to change that.

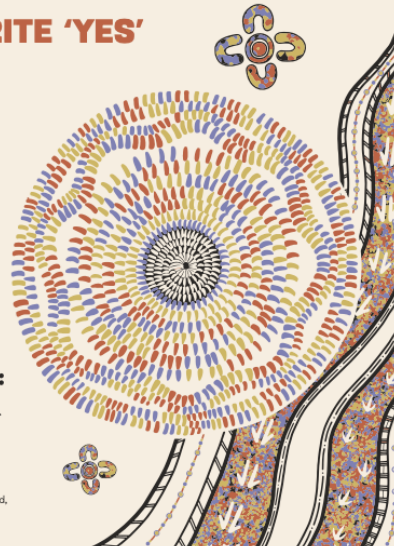
LISTENING AND RESPECT:

Whether we've been here for 3 years, 50 years or 50,000 years, everyone should be treated equally and with respect. First Nations people should have a say over decisions that impact their lives. Often decisions are made top-down, without considerations or input from communities.

WHO WE COULD BE AS A NATION:

We want a country that values and respects First Nations people and culture. Just as Norway and New Zealand have embraced Sami and Māori culture, language and representation in parliament - we have that same opportunity.

About the artist: Tanisha Davis is a proud Kuku Yalanji woman from Far North Queensland, now based in Melbourne. @tanisha_davis



As a teacher I saw better education policies when the people most involved were consulted. In the same way, we'll get the best policies for First Nations people if we give them a Voice.

Therese, Meanjin (Brisbane)



We are the oldest living cultures in the world and this is something all Australians can be proud of and celebrate. I am writing 'YES' for shared history, shared values, shared future, and a national identity that represents everybody.

Mel Ngarrindjeri, Kooraa and Wirangu Country



I'm writing 'YES' this referendum because I want to protect my community against fracking. It's about time that Aboriginal people get recognised in this country. Hopefully the voice will give us more opportunity to be at the table to make decisions for the better of our people and give us a key to the future.

Maria, Garawa and Yanyuwa Country



Australia is not alone in this process of reconciling our past and trying to right past wrongs. A similar process happened in NZ where The Waitangi Tribunal gave the Māori people a voice. It was also a process that took decades. The Voice will eventually do the same for First Nations people in Australia.

Hannibal, Meanjin (Brisbane)





The **FAQ section** contains some useful answers to tricky questions you might get on the day, like:

- “Why does writing ‘Yes’ matter?” or
- “What will the Voice achieve?”

We suggest you read them!

We take our independence seriously: GetUp takes its commitment to political independence very seriously – and we hope you will too. Unlike political party volunteers, **you’re giving voters *independent* information on an important issue.** While handing out for GetUp and representing the GetUp community, you cannot advocate for any political parties or wear political party material.

Hand out “front” side up: Please try to ensure that the #WriteYes pamphlets land in voters’ hands front side up.

Use a snappy opening line when a voter approaches the polling booth, for example:

“Do you Care about First Nations justice, First Nation-led solutions? Grab your #WriteYes pamphlet here!”

“Read more about why writing ‘Yes’ matters!”

Explain how to vote using the #WriteYes pamphlet: Voting in a referendum is a little different to a regular election. There is a guide on the pamphlet that shows people how they can write ‘Yes’ and ensure their vote counts. To explain to a voter:

“Write ‘Yes’ on the ballot to show your support for the Voice. Any other answer – like a tick or a cross – will compromise your vote.”

Talking about the referendum and First Nations justice: Every interaction you have with voters matters. Some of these will be a short phrase as you hand them a pamphlet, whereas others may want to hear more information. . Here are some handy facts and talking points. Feel free to do your own research too!

First Nations Justice:

Key message: This Referendum we want to see Australia #WriteYes to move forward on the issues that really matter to First Nations Communities.

- ★ Are you horrified by the destruction of a sacred site at Jukaan Gorge by mining company Rio Tinto? Right now, there is no legislation stopping that

kind of destruction from happening again.¹ A patchwork-system of laws leaves thousands of sacred Aboriginal heritage sites at-risk of destruction by greedy mining corporations. Promises to fix this have existed for decades, but **it's time for action**. We urgently need a time-bound and federally-funded commitment to a Federal Heritage Act – centred around veto rights and designed in consultation with Traditional Owners – to guarantee the protection of culturally and historically significant sites.

- ★ Are you sick of the government giving public money to big energy corporations that steamroll Traditional Owners, destroy Country and create climate bombs?² Traditional Owners have been fronting up at crucial parliamentary hearings to talk about consent and fighting back against fracking on Country for decades.³ **It's clear fracking isn't wanted and that Traditional Owners must give consent to gas mining projects and infrastructure on their lands.**

Talking about GetUp: A lot of voters won't have heard of GetUp before, and may ask you what GetUp is. An easy way to explain is:

"GetUp is an independent movement of everyday people. . Today, we're handing out information about writing 'Yes' and why it matters. Would you like to have a read?"

Have fun with it!: Positivity and enthusiasm are contagious. People are more likely to take a pamphlet from someone who is positive. A bright smile 😊 is your best accessory if you're in the mood.

Focus on the voters: The referendum debate has been charged. Be friendly and polite to the other volunteers. Avoid or remove yourself if there is any conflict. Don't let other volunteers distract you from getting our message across and handing out pamphlets into the hands of as many voters as possible.

Maintain presence: **Our aim is to offer every single voter a #WriteYes pamphlet.** That means spreading out and standing in strategic entrances. There are normally only a couple of key entrances and paths to the booth. Try different combinations and see what works best! (However, be careful not to stand within 6 metres of a polling booth entrance. See below under '[AEC rules](#)' for more information.)

¹ Juukan Gorge inquiry calls for overhaul of Australia's 'grossly inadequate' Aboriginal heritage laws, The Guardian, 18 October 2021.

² Politics live blog, The Guardian, 22 March 2022.

³ Beetaloo traditional owners yet to be consulted on production of fracking gas, Senate inquiry hears, The Guardian, 22 March 2022; Gas projects accelerated as Taylor boosts funding, AFR, 21 March 2022

Keep your cool 😎: Don't be disheartened if someone doesn't take a pamphlet or is unpleasant. The best thing to do is to move on to the next voter and keep your cool.

Referendum day

What to bring 📋

When it comes to the weather, expect the unexpected. Please check the forecast on polling day to check the conditions in your area. Make sure you bring:

- Sunscreen and a hat 🧢
- An umbrella ☔ or wet weather gear
- A jumper (again, orange, if you have it!)
- Comfortable shoes 👟
- A bottle of water ,snacks and food to last you through the shift
- Covid-safe supplies like some sanitiser and a mask 😷 if you'd like to use one
- A copy of your booth roster
- Masking tape, plastic bags, and a few pens ✍️

GetUp will provide some t-shirts at every polling booth. The t-shirts are branded and come in a range of sizes. There should be enough t-shirts for you to keep yours as a souvenir.

Referendum day support

On Referendum Day, you will have a few different numbers to call for support. All of these contact details will be provided to you in the week leading up to Referendum day.

📞 You will call GetUp HQ - volunteers / booths (02 8188 2873) if:

- You turn up to your booth and you can't see any GetUp volunteers (unless no-one was rostered on before you)
- A volunteer doesn't show up for the next shift, and you can't get through to them
- If you have any volunteer issues at your booth

 **You will call the GetUp HQ – legal / urgent issues (02 8188 2887) if:**

- You are having an unresolvable issue with an AEC official
- Someone says you cannot hand out GetUp's pamphlets
- Any issue relating to the law
- Any serious health and safety issues or incidents such as injuries, harassment or abusive behaviour.

When you arrive at your booth

Every booth has a main entrance. This address has been shared with you in the confirmation email you received after being rostered on. It will also be written on the top of your booth roster you'll be sent in the week leading up to Referendum day.

When you arrive, simply look for the #WriteYes branding! If you're the first person rostered onto your booth, or there wasn't anyone rostered on before you, go ahead and start handing out GetUp's pamphlets! **(If you're the Morning Captain, there's a [section](#) for you further down.)** If there are a few volunteers rostered on to your shift and there is another major entrance, you might decide to hand-out there to increase our impact.


Overlapping shifts

The volunteer shifts on election day are:

- Morning: 7.45 – 10.45am
- Midday: 10.30am – 1.30pm
- Arvo: 1.15pm – 4.15pm
- Closing: 4–6pm

The shifts at your polling booth deliberately overlap so that your booth is never unattended. There should be a t-shirt for each of you. This changeover period is also an opportunity to say hello to your fellow GetUp volunteers, share tips about handing out, and pass on any special instructions from the AEC official.

If the next volunteer doesn't show

If the next volunteer rostered on after you doesn't turn up, you can find their number on the booth roster. Give them a call  and find out if they're running late or if they're unable to make it at all.

If they can no longer attend, give GetUp HQ a call at **02 8188 2873** and inform them of the situation. You may be asked if you could stay longer, this support person may cover the shift themselves, or you'll be given instructions as to where to leave the materials in a safe place for the next person.

Clean up

Are you working the last shift at your booth? The pamphlets are made of recyclable paper , so you can recycle them in a yellow-lid mixed recycling bin for paper and plastic, or blue-lid recycling bin for paper, depending on your local council. And the corflutes can be recycled in specific locations, which we will share. The banners, and any spare shirts are yours to keep if you would like to return them email refday@getup.org.au

★ If you encounter conflict

Referendum day will be a momentous day where you can connect with voters on issues that you care about. In the event that you experience any conflict on Referendum day, please follow the below steps.

Step 1: Don't engage and remove yourself from the situation. The best thing you can do is remain calm and collected.

Step 2: Call GetUp HQ. Staff members will be available on these numbers all day. You can find the number for GetUp HQ on the top of your roster.

Please save this number and your on the ground support persons number in your phone.

Step 3: If you ever feel threatened or the situation is getting out of hand, remove yourself from the situation and call the police immediately on 000. You can also approach the Australian Electoral Commission staff.

★ Are you a Morning Captain?

If you're a Morning Captain, you're responsible for receiving your booth materials from GetUp before Referendum day. But if you have questions before then, please reach out on refday@getup.org.au

In your booth pack, you should have:

- 10 GetUp t shirts
- 2 banners and/or corflutes (depending on your booth), including a QR code that links to our #WriteYes pamphlets

You should also have, or be about to get around 2000 pamphlets, depending on your booth.

You should aim to arrive at your booth by 7am, wearing a #WriteYes t-shirt, to carve out a high-visibility space and set up your corflutes. Booth space can be competitive, so the earlier you arrive the better. You want to set up as close to the polling booth entrance as possible, while keeping in mind that the AEC requires you to observe a six metre distance. Once you set up, introduce yourself to the AEC official, and get ready to welcome your first volunteers who'll arrive at 7.45am.

Take photos

Social media

Photos that capture the energy and excitement of GetUp's Referendum day efforts are a great way to share our work and values with voters. Taken an awesome snap on Referendum day? Share it with GetUp straight away by email: refday@getup.org.au or tweet: @getup.

Don't forget to include your name, polling booth and electorate!

What makes a great photo?

- Maximum #WriteYes branding! Shirts, placards and pamphlets on show
- Smiling faces and great energy – show voters that booth volunteers are approachable and available to chat.
- Avoid getting other placards or banners in the shot



IMPORTANT: GetUp may take photographs and video footage of booth volunteers for use in its campaign and fundraising work. If you do not want your image featured, please email refday@getup.org.au

Posting to your personal social media

Posting your polling booth snaps to social media? Make sure you tag GetUp's social channels. Just remember, anything you post should reflect GetUp's values of independence and issues-based campaigning.



@GetUpAustralia



@getup_australia



@GetUp

Code of Conduct

The GetUp movement relies on the continued efforts of volunteers like you. We want all of you to have a positive and empowering experience in our movement. We want all of you to **feel safe, valued, and respected, and to enjoy working together.**

To help ensure this, we have a [Volunteer Policy Manual](#), which sets out the values and standards of behaviour that we expect of all of our volunteers, along with policies and procedures for managing conduct issues, grievances, work health and safety matters including COVID-19 safety measures, privacy and independence.

Please make sure that you read and understand all of the information in the Manual. **By continuing to volunteer with GetUp, you will be taken to have read and agreed to abide by the policies and procedures in it.**

If you have any questions about the information in the Manual, feel free to contact us at refday@getup.org.au - we'd be happy to chat to you about it!

AEC rules

On election day, we must follow rules set down by the **Referendum Machinery Provisions Act 1984**. It's really important that you follow all of these rules and always comply with any instructions given to you by Australian Electoral Commission officials.

- Do not mislead or deceive voters in relation to voting (for example, by misleading people about what they need to do to cast a valid vote).
- Do not make false statements to voters about their enrollment.
- Do not hand out any materials other than the #WriteYes pamphlet when volunteering.
- Do not offer property, benefits or gifts to anyone.
- Do not write on footpaths, roads, buildings, vehicles, vessels or hoardings.
- Do not leave #WriteYes materials in polling booths or attempt to retrieve them from polling booths.
- Keep a distance of 6 metres from the polling booth entry when volunteering.
- Obey any instructions given by an AEC officer. If you think the instruction is unlawful, take their name and contact the GetUp HQ immediately.

- Contact GetUp HQ immediately at **02 8188 2887** if you are threatened, including legally, by other political organisations or their representatives. Do not remain in a location you feel unsafe in.

★ **Observe the 6 metre perimeter**

If you're handing out material for #WriteYes, you must remain 6 metres from the polling booth entrance at all times — it's an offence to be any closer. This also means that loudspeakers and amplifiers must not be audible within 6 metres of the polling booth entrance. **Sometimes a polling booth perimeter is unclear so check with the AEC official before handing anything out.**

Anyone engaging in the following activities within a polling booth or within 6 metres of the entrance is guilty of an offence:

- Canvassing votes
- Inducing an elector to vote in a particular way at a referendum
- Inducing any elector not to vote at a referendum
- Exhibiting any notice or sign (other than an official notice) that relates to a referendum

★ **Unauthorised materials**

As a GetUp volunteer, you must only hand out the #WriteYes pamphlet provided. There are strict legal requirements around the authorisation of materials and if not adhered to can lead to prosecution. **Please do not hand out for another organisation or political body if you are volunteering with GetUp on referendum day.**

★ **#WriteYes t-shirts**

You should remove your #WriteYes t-shirt and any other GetUp branded clothing and accessories (e.g. badges) when you head inside a polling booth to cast your own vote on referendum day. You must observe this rule when you pass through the polling booth entrance and the 6 metre exclusion zone for any reason, e.g. accessing bathroom facilities. If wearing a #WriteYes t-shirt you can cover it with clothing or turn it inside out when heading in.

★ #WriteYes pamphlets inside booths

If a voter takes a #WriteYes pamphlet, they are free to take it to the booth with them. While it is an offence for a person to leave it there, **under no circumstances should you enter the polling booth to retrieve pamphlets yourself, nor ask booth staff to retrieve them.**

★ Follow all AEC official instructions

It is an offence to engage in misconduct or disobey a lawful direction from an AEC official in charge of a polling place. If you feel that the AEC official has given a direction that is not lawful, follow the direction and ask for their full name and the contact details of a more senior AEC official to review the matter. In the unlikely event this happens, contact the GetUp HQ immediately **02 8188 2887**. For more details about the laws governing polling places head to the AEC website: <http://www.aec.gov.au/>

Do not attend a booth on referendum day if you are experiencing cold-and-flu-like symptoms 🤒 or otherwise feeling unwell. If you cannot attend, inform your Rostering Volunteer and Morning Captain as soon as possible.

If you begin to feel unwell at a booth on election day, you should:

- Leave the booth immediately and inform your On the Ground Support team of the development.
- If you are unable to leave immediately, you should locate a quiet and temporary isolation and rest area, where you can wait until you are able to leave the site. After you have left the site, please notify your On the Ground Support team.

Checklist

Before Referendum day

- ☐ **Confirm your booth and shift** with your Rostering Volunteer. If you haven't heard from them within a few days of signing up to volunteer, email refday@getup.org.au
- ☐ **Print out or save your booth roster**, which will be shared with you in the week leading up to Referendum day.
- ☐ **Who you gonna call?** Save the GetUp HQ phone numbers 📞 so they're with you on the day (both will be written on the top of your roster available in the week leading up to Referendum day).
- ☐ **Check you are healthy.** In order to keep everyone as safe as possible, we strongly recommend doing a rapid antigen test the day before Referendum day.
- ☐ ★ **FOR MORNING CAPTAINS –You should have received your materials.** GetUp will send you the materials in the weeks leading up to Referendum day, but feel free to email refday@getup.org.au if you have questions.

On Referendum day

- ☐ **Carve out a strategic and high-visibility booth space.** The closer you are to the polling booth entrance the better, just remember that the AEC requires you to observe a 6 metre distance from the entrance.
- ☐ **Arrive on time** 🕒 to your shift.
- ☐ **Communicate any changes.** If you're running late or something comes up on the day, give the volunteers rostered on *before and after* you a call or SMS ➡️📱 to let them know. You can find their contact details on your booth roster shared a few days before Referendum day.
- ☐ **Any problems?** Depending on the issue, call your On-Ground Support or GetUp HQ number shared on your roster.
- ☐ **Have fun and stay safe!** Volunteering on Referendum day is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable ways to have an impact. Enjoy your day connecting with people in the community!

Thank you!