



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on the Integrity
Commission and Statutory Office
Holders

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the operation of the 2024 ACT Election and Electoral Act 1992

Submission number: 006

Submitter: COTA Ageing ACT

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To Members of the Standing Committee on Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders
Via email LACommitteeIntegrity@parliament.act.gov.au
Closing date 31 July 2025

Council on the Ageing ACT (COTA ACT) is pleased to provide this submission to the Committee's inquiry into the operation of the 2024 ACT Election.

COTA ACT is a local organisation working to improve the lives of older people in the Canberra community. We work with older people, their families and friends, community organisations, businesses, and government to identify gaps and implement services and programs to encourage older people to participate in the community and contribute to their fullest. You can find out more at <https://cotaact.org.au/>

Firstly, COTA ACT would like to express our appreciation to Elections ACT for their thoughtful and genuine engagement with COTA ACT in the planning phases for the 2024 ACT election and for their consideration of COTA ACT's suggestions. We believe this contributed to the positive feedback COTA ACT has received about the electoral process. This is especially notable because feedback about the recent 2025 Federal election was less favourable.

Of particular interest for COTA ACT regarding the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry into the operation of the 2024 ACT Election are

- The timeframe and accessibility of early voting
- The number and location of ordinary polling places
- The sufficiency of access to mobile voting places.

COTA ACT has some brief comments on these points, as below.

Early voting

The timeframe and accessibility of early voting were suitable for older Canberrans. Providing an early voting place in each area was useful. The only drawback in some instances was access to parking. The flexibility in how and where to vote through mobile, remote, telephone and overseas voting options offers increased accessibility for those who might otherwise struggle to participate.

Election Day

While our general (anecdotal) understanding is that many older Canberrans took advantage of early voting in an attempt to avoid crowds (for health reasons) and to avoid long wait times (and hence standing in queues), the arrangements on election day were generally satisfactory.

Aged care facilities

The opportunity for residents to vote at their aged care facilities is highly valued. COTA ACT was happy to assist the AEC ACT office with comprehensive lists of all Residential Care facilities in the territory.

Conclusion

Voting has been compulsory in Australia for over a century and is associated with the principle that it should be easy to vote. This is appreciated and supported as a general rule by older Canberrans who take their right and responsibility to vote seriously.

We acknowledge that the election is a demanding administrative task and are pleased that it is handled so well and runs so smoothly and, from our perspective, with electoral integrity.
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jenny Mobbs
CEO,
COTA ACT

21/07/2025