



National Women's Alliances launch womenvote.org.au

The National Women's Alliances have launched womenvote.org.au urging women to "Use their Vote".

"womenvote.org.au highlights the democratic importance of women casting a vote that reflects their experiences and beliefs. The site will also provide links to party policies, to the ABC's Vote Compass and to various other political spectrum tools so that women can easily engage with the campaigns leading up to the election. By doing this, the National Women's Alliances are placing policy front and centre for women when they cast their vote." Sally Jope, Acting Executive Officer for economic Security4Women said

The six National Women's Alliances include the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA), the National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC), the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA), the Australian Migrant and Refugee Women's Alliance (AMaRWA), economic Security4Women (eS4W) and the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA).

Zita Ngor, a Board Member of AMaRWA said "The combination of the experiences of each of the alliances means we have been able to craft electoral material on enrolling and voting to meet the needs and answer the questions of all women."

"Some examples of the ways we have achieved this include using animations translated into four different languages, tailoring information on safe enrolment for women escaping violence and highlighting and consolidating information on voting in rural and remote communities. The site womenvote.org.au creates a much needed space for all women to find important information on enrolment, election policies and voting." Ms Ngor said

Ms Jope said "By doing this, womenvote.org.au not only caters for the diverse experiences of women; it places great value on their contribution to and participation in public and political life."

womenvote.org.au is also interactive and participatory. "We want women to take a photo of themselves with our Women! Use Your Vote poster and upload it to Facebook or Twitter so we can create a collage of women who will be using their vote this election. Like democracy, the more women participating in this project, the better!"

"In the 2010 election one in five or 20 per cent of eligible Australians were either not enrolled, were enrolled but did not vote or cast defective votes. Our hope is that this website be a leap towards all women being informed, independent, effective and empowered voters. The information provided at womenvote.org.au is the ultimate election toolkit for every woman." Sally Jope concluded

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Go to www.womenvote.org.au