

## how did i can vote 2022 work?







Running the I Can Vote project is a big job! Our team is made up of a lot of people, from many organisations. We each worked on different parts of the project. Here is some information about how it all worked.



### 1. the team

We put a team together to run the project. The team included:

- Self-advocates who have an intellectual disability
- People with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)
- Researchers from universities
- Advocacy organisations

These are the organisations that are part of the project. Here is what they did:

Organisation		What the organisation did
Inclusion Designlab		Inclusion Designlab organised the project. Inclusion Designlab is part of Inclusion Melbourne, but it has the freedom to make our own choices.
C31		C31 used to be called Channel 31. C31 is a film, video, and TV organisation. People at C31 filmed some of the videos of parties and candidates.
Expression Australia		Expression Australia is an organisation for Deaf people. It provides many services that support Deaf people. They put the captions, images and Auslan interpretation on every video.
University of Melbourne		Researchers from the university helped make sure the ideas behind the project made sense. They helped bring people with disability and advocates together for the project.
Deakin University		Researchers from the university helped bring people with disability together for the project. They are experts in self-advocacy and projects about how people with intellectual disability make decisions.
VALiD		VALiD is an advocacy organisation that helps people make decisions about their lives. VALiD helps people with intellectual disability with legal issues. They also make sure people are treated fairly when they

		have problems with services. VALiD helped bring people with disability together for this project.
Amnesty International Australia		Amnesty is a human rights organisation. They helped us connect with politicians. They support the I Can Vote project by telling people in the community about it.
Rainbow Rights and Advocacy		This is a self-advocacy group for LGBTIQ+ people with cognitive disability. It helps people with disability talk about their lives and stand up for themselves. Rainbow Rights helped bring people with disability together for this project.

## 2. what we think about inclusion, politics and voting

We all agreed that it was really important for people to have access to information in easy language about the election. This is really important for people with intellectual disability, acquired brain injury (ABI), and people who can't read or speak English well. Here is what we think about voting, politics, and disability:

- Some people with intellectual and cognitive disability get to learn about voting in classes at school. But many of these classes don't have information about political parties.
- It is hard to find easy language information about election candidates and political parties.
- Many people with intellectual disability *never* get the chance to talk about politics with anyone. This means they don't get to learn what jargon words mean. They don't get to learn about the parties and their history. They find it difficult to understand news about politics.
- There are many rules and laws in Victoria that say people with intellectual and cognitive disability have the right to learn about politics. They have the right to be included in conversations about politics. These laws include:
  - i. Australian Disability Discrimination Act
  - ii. Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
  - iii. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The government doesn't follow these laws during elections yet. I Can Vote 2022 is all about changing this!

## 3. working out what to do

We had meetings to talk about every part of the project. We worked out:

- What our big goal for the 2022 project was. We wanted every party to make a video. We wanted many independent candidates to make videos.
- How to make sure all the parties and political candidates were included.
- The questions we wanted to ask parties and candidates.

- The rules for the project. This was to make sure everything was fair. There were rules for writing the easy language scripts for the videos. There were also rule for how the videos needed to look.
- How the website should look. It looks a bit different to the 2018 website.
- How we wanted to use social media. We decided to use Facebook as our main way of telling people in the community about the project.
- Who was going to film the videos. C31 offered to use its studios if people wanted help filming their video.
- Who was going to work on the videos after filming. Expression Australia offered to do this work. Expression Australia also put Auslan translation into all the videos.
- How we wanted to talk to the government about the project. We wanted to make sure the government would see our work as important. We met with a group called the Electoral Matters Committee from the Parliament of Victoria. We also spoke to the Victorian Electoral Commission and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

## 4. the rules

I Can Vote videos have to be made in the same way. The cost of each video needs to be the same. This was our way of making sure everyone trusts I Can Vote. Here are our main rules:

### Videos:

- All the videos needed to be 2 to 3 minutes long.
- The videos needed to use easy language.
- Candidates and parties had to send some text to the I Can Vote project team. This text had to be 150-200 words long. It needed to include some answers to three questions:
  - i. Who are you? Tell us about yourself and your party or electorate.
  - ii. What are your three most important values.
  - iii. What will you do if you win at the election.
- The I Can Vote project team had to translate the text into the easy language script for each video. The scripts needed to explain the meaning of difficult words and jargon. Some jargon words look easy when you first read them, but the ideas are not easy. Some examples are:
  - i. Cost of living
  - ii. Climate change
  - iii. Debt
  - iv. Tax cuts
  - v. Taking responsibility
  - vi. A fair go
- Candidates and parties were not allowed to write the easy language for their own scripts.
- Videos needed to use the same pictures in the title and ending.
- Videos needed to have captions. This means the words at the bottom of the screen that tell you what each person is saying.
- Videos needed to have Auslan translation on the side of the screen.

- Videos could be filmed by the candidate or party themselves **or** by our video team. If they were filmed by the candidate or party, they needed to be filmed in the same way.
- Videos could only be made between the dates of October 1 and November 21.
- All videos needed to go on the I Can Vote website.

**Team:**

- The I Can Vote project team members were not allowed to be members of a political party.
- The I Can Vote project partners were not allowed to openly support any political party outside of the project.

**Cost:**

We wanted every party to make a video. We also wanted independents to make videos. We wanted to make sure the videos were cheap. Each I Can Vote partner organization did some work for free. It was not easy!

We did not mind if each candidate from the parties made videos or not – it was more important for each party to have one good overall video.

The prices below include the work on easy language scripts, adding the captions and Auslan translation, putting picture in the videos, and putting them on the website:

- Party videos and independent videos:
  - i. Party or candidate films the video: \$120
  - ii. We film the video: \$270
- Videos for candidates who belong to a party:
  - i. Candidate films the video: \$320
  - ii. We film the video: \$470

## 5. telling election candidates

It was really important that everyone had the chance to make an I Can Vote video.

We told:

- Every party that was registered on the VEC website before 23 October. This was our deadline for communicating to parties and candidates.
- Every current member of Victorian parliament.
- Every independent found through online news and individual candidate searches.

We sent every candidate a document called the 'Information for Candidates Guide'. It had information about the project, the videos, the cost, and the important dates.

This table shows how we contacted everyone. This table was put together on 14 November 2022.

	Email or party website form	Social media message (if active on Facebook)	Tagged in Facebook ads following initial expression of interest	Contacted directly through the Vic Parliament Electoral Matters Committee.
Animal Justice				
Labor				
Derryn Hinch's JP				
Democratic Labour				
Freedom Party				
Greens				
Health Australia				
Liberal Democrats				
Liberal		Already registered		
Nationals		Already registered		
Pauline Hanson's ON				
Reason				
Sustainable Australia				
Shooters Fishers Farmers				
Transport Matters				
United Australia				
Companions and Pets				
Victorian Socialists		Already registered		
Family First				
Legalise Cannabis				
New Democrats				
<i>All current members of Victorian Parliament</i>				
<i>Independents</i>				

## 6. who signed up?

	Contacted	Expressed initial interest	Registered	Sent text for translation	Received translated text from ICV team	Filmed video
Animal Justice Party						
Labor						
Derryn Hinch's JP						
Democratic Labour						

Freedom Party						
Greens						
Health Australia						
Liberal Democrats						
Liberal						
Nationals						
Pauline Hanson's ON						
Reason						
Sustainable Australia						
Shooters Fishers Farmers						
Transport Matters						
United Australia						
Companions and Pets						
Victorian Socialists						
Family First						
Legalise Cannabis						
New Democrats						

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