

## What you can do

### Am I eligible to enrol

- You can enrol to vote if you are 17 years old (so that you are ready to vote when you turn 18)
- Are an Australian citizen
- Have lived at your current address for at least a month

### How do I get on the electoral roll

You need to fill out an enrolment form available from:

- CFMEU offices
- Any post office
- The Australian Electoral Commission website

[www.aec.gov.au/\\_content/what/enrolment/forms.htm#enrolment\\_forms](http://www.aec.gov.au/_content/what/enrolment/forms.htm#enrolment_forms)

### What if I have never enrolled before

If you fill in an enrolment form now, you won't be penalised. Under the Electoral Act once a person gives the electoral commission a completed enrolment form they cannot be prosecuted for not enrolling before, no matter how long they may have technically been in breach of the law.

## Retraction

In the November 2006 edition of Unity, Peter Primmer of the CFMEU was quoted as saying that Ison Cranes sacked a crane driver after his involvement in an incident where a dogman suffered an injury, despite an "independent ruling" that it was just an accident. It is not correct that there was an "independent ruling"; Peter Primmer was referring to WorkCover notices that did not apportion blame for the accident.

# Roberto wages war at ballot box

**Roberto Brotonel never** thought voting was important. But then John Howard decided workers had it too good and introduced WorkChoices, the industrial relations laws that strip away workers' hard-won rights.

Now the 25-year-old worker with Piling Contractors Australia is eager for Howard to call the federal election so he can have his say.

"I just figured, what's one vote, you know," he says. "I never thought it'd make a difference. I wasn't informed of what was going on around me. But I look back, you know, and if a 100,000 people thought like me, then it's a 100,000 less votes for the Prime Minister's job. I want to make my vote count and get Johnny out, and do my bit for the working class."

Brotonel's first step in joining the fight for workers was to sign up with the CFMEU.

As part of his commitment to ousting Howard, Brotonel is urging others to follow his lead and ensure they enrol to vote. "Ever since the IR changes I've been sort of pissed off, like I've left it too late. Now, I just want to make sure I've done my bit and encourage others to do their bit as well."

But be warned! Howard's recent changes to the electoral laws means you need to register now.

In a deliberate move to rob future voters of



### MAKING HIS MARK

Roberto Brotonel will vote for the first time this year

their democratic rights, the Government hijacked the electoral laws. Previously people had seven days after an election was called to sign on to the electoral rolls. Under Howard's changes if you are not on the roll by 8pm the night he decides and announces the election you miss out.

Brotonel has two kids and he doesn't want them growing up in an Australia where workers get less than their share. "I'm worried about my kids and the future. I don't want them working on a minimum wage or to be in a situation where I get a home loan and have my wage cut in half."

Brotonel is scared he'll end up working in a job that pays him less than he gets now. "I know what John Howard wants to do to the construction industry, like abolishing the unions and all the awards we've received over the years and basically get us down to minimum wage."

Brotonel is just one worker fighting to ensure that doesn't happen. — Eoin Blackwell

## New Aussies ready to vote

**CFMEU Delegate Claude Sgroi** is becoming a citizen so he can have his say. After 41 years in Australia, the CFMEU delegate has finally become a citizen for one reason – to vote out John Howard. The Sicilian came here as a 10-year-old in 1966 and although he loves his adopted country, has never felt the desire to vote until now.

"Mate, I've never see it so bad," the De Martin & Gasparini delegate says of working conditions under Howard. "The bosses have never had more money while ordinary people are losing their houses. We've got to get rid of Howard."

Englishman Mick Lees, of Blacktown, told Unity he was finally becoming an Aussie so he could vote Howard out.

"I'm just a resident, but I am going to get my citizenship so I can vote. Under WorkChoices we don't know what the future holds. I think it's really important, especially for this little one," he said pointing



### STEP IN RIGHTS DIRECTION

Englishman Mick Lees is voting for Isabella's future

to his daughter Isabella, 4. Lees was speaking while enjoying the CFMEU's Picnic Day at Taronga Zoo.

### How to become a citizen

Visit [www.citizenship.gov.au](http://www.citizenship.gov.au) for an application form or phone the citizenship hotline on 131 880.