

Sorting fact from fiction



This information is from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

We will write V.E.C. when we talk about us.



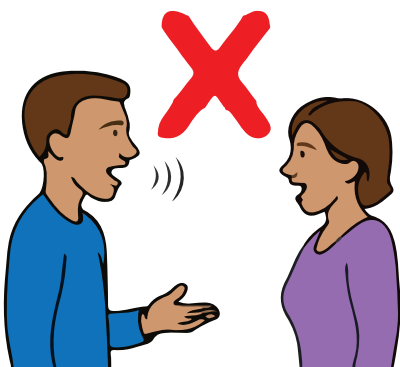
The wrong information can be shared sometimes. Think about the information you see about elections. It might be wrong.



Fact is the truth

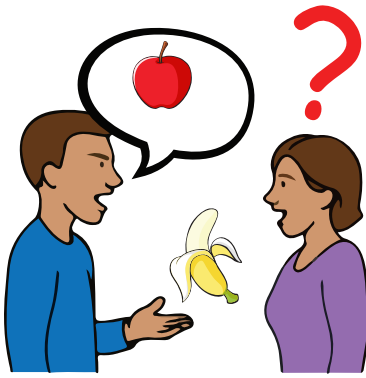


Fiction is the wrong information.



Fiction can be:

Misinformation – when someone shares information that they think is true, but it is incorrect.



Disinformation – when someone shares information to trick you or hide the truth from you for their own reasons.

Be careful of both **misinformation** and **disinformation** about elections.

You can:



Check where it came from

- Is the information from a person you know and trust?
- Is it from a website that is well known?

If it is from someone or somewhere you do not know, it might be wrong.

NOVEMBER 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	SUN	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	
13	14	15	16	17		
20	21	22	23	24		
27	28	29	30			

26

Check the date

Make sure any information about an election is from this year. Information that is older might not have all the latest facts.

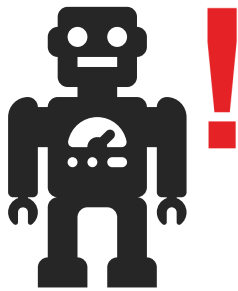


Check who wrote it

The person writing the information must say who they are. This is called “authorising”. It will say “Authorised by” and their name and address.

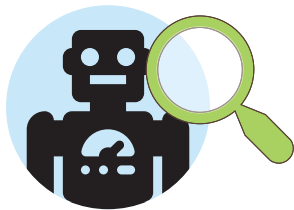
If they do not say who they are, they might not be someone you should trust.

- Has the person who wants to share this information shared their name and address (authorised it)?



Beware of bots!

Sometimes information is shared by ‘bots’. A bot is computer code pretending to be a person and is used on-line to do certain things quickly. Bots can act like real people and share information on social media.



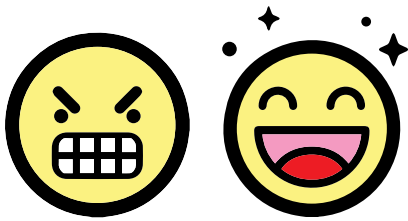
Check where the information came from to see if it is a real person and not a bot.

If there is not much personal information and there are lots of numbers in the name, it is likely to be a bot.



Check who is paying

Sometimes people pay for you to see an ad on social media. You should check to see who has paid for it. Then think why they wanted you to see it.



Check how it makes you feel

People who want you to share fiction might try to make you mad or happy on purpose so you will share it.

If you are not sure if the information is true do not share it.



Know who to trust

We make sure that people follow the rules about elections.

We want the elections to be fair.

We are not the government.

The best way to find out the truth about the election is to use the tips in this fact sheet.



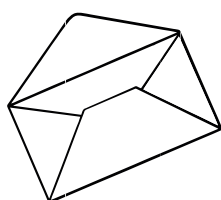
Contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.



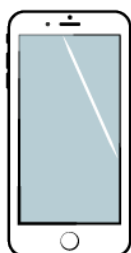
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If you are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or have speech impairment phone National Relay Service 133 677 and ask for 03 8620 1100.

For speech-to-speech relay phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 03 8620 1100.



Other languages 9209 0112.