YOUR VOTE

How to Use It

By NORAH J. C. FOSTER (ex-Matron, Walgett Aboriginal Station.)

The Federal Election is to be held on November 22nd this year, and many of you young people, having reached the age of twenty-one, will be entitled to vote, and it is important to get your name on the Electoral Roll. To do this, ask your Clerk of Petty Sessions the address of your Electoral Officer, then write for a form, fill it in and post it back, for there is not much time left.

Those who are not sure that their names are on the Roll should write and ask the Electoral Officer of their district.

Now a word of advice about voting.

Outside the Polling Booth on Election day there are men representing the Labour, Liberal and Country Parties. Whichever one of them you go to, he will look up the Electoral Roll and see if your name is there, and he will give you a “HOW TO VOTE” card, showing which ones he wants you to vote for, but you will already have decided on the man you want to have elected to Parliament, so in you go to the Polling Booth, and again you will be asked your name, when it will be crossed out and you will be given the very important ballot paper with the names of all the men for your area who wish to be elected.

It is something like this:—

DIRECTIONS:—Mark your vote on this ballot-paper by placing the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the squares respectively opposite the names of the candidates, so as to indicate the order of your preference for them.

CANDIDATES:

☐ JONES, R.
☐ BLACK, Z.
☐ WHITE, M.
☐ BROWN

There might be only three or four names, but you will see a square alongside each name, and you make the figure 1 in the square beside the name of the man you want, 2 in the square beside the one you think is the next best, and so on, but it is very important indeed to remember that you must fill in every square. It is no use just putting the figure 1 beside the name of the man you want to be elected and leaving all the other squares. In that way you make your vote informal, or in other words, it just doesn’t count at all, and you would not want that to happen, would you?

At every election there are hundreds of votes wasted in this way because people have not taken the trouble to find out what they must do. If for instance there are six men on your ballot paper, you would put the figure 6 alongside the name of the man you do not care for at all.

Some of you young people may think it really doesn’t matter very much whether you vote or not, but it does. Election day is the one day when you yourself have a say as to which Party shall become the Government.

The actions of these men whom we put in power can affect the lives of each one of us. Make no mistake about that, so your vote is very important.

Remember, the figure 1 in the square alongside the man you want to win, 2 in the square for the next best, 3 for the one you think might be all right after him, but whatever you do, be sure to fill in every square, and don’t put off seeing that your name is on the Electoral Roll.

Dudley Crowe, of Cootamundra, is one of the States outstanding cyclists and has won many races