



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 25

Bendigo residents urged to respond to VEC notices – It’s not a fine!

ARC Justice is urging City of Greater Bendigo residents who receive a notice about not voting in the 2024 council elections in the coming weeks not to ignore it.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) – the body that runs council elections across the state – recently revealed that 9587 Greater Bendigo residents will get an *Apparent Failure to Vote Notice* in the coming weeks.

ARC Justice CEO Damian Stock said understanding what the notice means is vital.

“If you missed voting in the 2024 council elections late last year, the VEC will send you this notice asking for an explanation. You won’t be fined if you have a valid reason and respond in time,” Stock said.

“If a natural disaster like a flood affected your ability to vote or if you had another valid reason – such as illness – you can explain this to the VEC. This notice is not a fine, but ignoring it could lead to a \$99 penalty, so it’s important to respond.”

To respond, visit www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/fines-and-reviews or call 1300 551 575.

“ARC Justice encourages residents to check their mail and respond promptly if they receive this notice. Understanding your rights can help you avoid unnecessary fines,” Stock said.

About ARC Justice

ARC Justice is a rights-based, for-purpose organisation incorporating the Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre and Housing Justice, a specialist renter support program based in Bendigo, and the Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre based in Shepparton. ARC provides legal and tenancy support services across 13 local government areas in central and northern Victoria, with a team of more than 60 staff working to advocate for and uphold the rights of rural and regional Victorians.

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