

7. Qualifications for Registration of Electors – (1) A person shall be qualified to be registered as an elector of a constituency if that person -

- (a) is a Cook Islander or a New Zealand citizen, or has the status of a permanent resident of the Cook Islands;
- (b) has at some period actually resided continuously in the Cook Islands for not less than 12 months;
- (c) is 18 years of age or over;
- (d) has been actually resident in the Cook Islands throughout the period of 3 months immediately preceding that person's application for enrolment as an elector;
- (e) has not been convicted of any corrupt practice or any offence punishable by death, or imprisonment for a term of 1 year or more unless in each case that person has received a free pardon or has undergone the sentence or punishment to which that person was adjudged;
- (f) is not of unsound mind.

(2) The constituency for which a person shall be entitled to be enrolled and to vote as an elector shall be the last constituency in which that person has actually resided continuously for 3 months or more.

(3) Every person who at the time of first making application for registration or who having become disqualified pursuant to subsection (4) requalifies under subsection (5) to be an elector of a constituency but has not actually resided in any one such constituency for a continuous period of three months shall be entitled to be registered in the constituency in which that person spent the greatest part of his or her time during the period of three months immediately preceding the date of his or her application for registration.

(4) A person who meets the qualifications imposed by subsection (1) or who requalifies under subsection (5), is disqualified from being an elector, or as an elector for a particular constituency if the person is subsequently absent from the Cook Islands or from the particular constituency for a continuous period exceeding 3 months.

(5) A person disqualified under subsection (4) shall requalify to be an elector or as an elector for a particular constituency if the person returns to the Cook Islands or to the constituency and at any time thereafter actually resides in the Cook Islands or in the constituency as the case may require, for a continuous period of not less than 3 months.

(6) The following shall not be regarded or treated as a period of absence from the Cook Islands or from a constituency as the case may be for the purposes of subsection (4) –

- (a) any continuous period not exceeding 4 years spent by a person outside of the constituency for the purpose of –
  - (i) receiving education, technical training or technical instruction; or
  - (ii) receiving medical treatment;
- (b) any period spent by a person outside the constituency as –
  - (i) a member of a Cook Islands diplomatic or consular mission outside of the Cook Islands; or
  - (ii) a spouse, partner or member of the household of a person referred to in subparagraph (i); or
- (c) any occasional absence for any purpose, for a period not exceeding 3 months.