

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What happens when a candidate resigns or is dis-endorsed by a political party during a federal election?

All candidates formally declared by the AEC remain on the ballot paper and voters can vote for any candidate on their ballot papers. The ballot papers are still valid even if the candidate has resigned from or been dis-endorsed by a political party and the voter must follow the instructions on the ballot paper.

The votes cast for these candidates will still be counted for these candidates and should they win, they will be entitled to sit in Parliament.

### I will be travelling overseas - will I be fined for not voting?

The AEC encourages all voters to take their voting responsibilities seriously and we provide a variety of voting options for Australians travelling overseas during an election.

If you are unable to vote you should complete and submit an Overseas Notification form which is available on the AEC website.

If you do not inform the AEC, they will write to you asking you to explain why you did not vote. If you explain you were overseas on election day, you will not be fined.

### How can I vote when I am overseas?

- If you are still in Australia when early voting becomes available you can vote before you go. Details of locations and opening times of early voting centres are available at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or call 13 23 26.
- You can vote in person at a number of Australian Embassies, High Commissions or Consulates overseas. Details of overseas voting locations are available at [www.aec.gov.au/overseas](http://www.aec.gov.au/overseas) or call 13 23 26 in Australia or +61 2 6160 2600 from outside Australia. Overseas Voting Centres may change due to security incidents so please check the website closer to the time of voting.
- You can apply for a postal vote at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au). You will need to provide an overseas address that enables you to receive and return your completed ballot papers to Australia in time to be counted.

### What times will the Overseas Voting Centres operate?

Check your nearest Overseas Voting Centre website for their operating times. You can access their website here [www.aec.gov.au/overseas](http://www.aec.gov.au/overseas)

### How do I know if I am eligible to vote?

Check your enrolment online ([www.aec.gov.au/check](http://www.aec.gov.au/check)) to find out your current enrolment details and where you are enrolled to vote.

**If you are not enrolled**, and have been overseas for less than three years, you may still be eligible to enrol if you are:

- an Australian citizen aged 18 years or older,
- intending to return to Australia within six years.

You cannot enrol for an overseas address; instead you must enrol in the electorate you were entitled to before you left Australia.

For further information visit [www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling\\_to\\_vote/overseas/index.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/overseas/index.htm)

### How do I update my electoral information?

You can [check your enrolment online](http://www.aec.gov.au/check) ([www.aec.gov.au/check](http://www.aec.gov.au/check)) to find out your current enrolment details and where you are enrolled to vote. To check which electorate you live in, see [find my electorate](http://www.aec.gov.au/electorate) ([www.aec.gov.au/electorate](http://www.aec.gov.au/electorate)) where you can search by suburb or postcode. If you need more assistance, please [contact the AEC](http://www.aec.gov.au/contact) ([www.aec.gov.au/contact](http://www.aec.gov.au/contact)).

### Will I need identification to vote at an Overseas Voting Centre?

You do not need to provide evidence of identity to cast a vote. However, you will need to provide evidence of identity, for example your passport or drivers licence, to enter into an Overseas Voting Centre. For information regarding security requirements to enter the Overseas Voting Centre, please go to [www.aec.gov.au/overseas](http://www.aec.gov.au/overseas) and click on the relevant Overseas Voting Centre website.

### Should I use my overseas or Australian address to vote?

You should use the address at which you are enrolled in Australia. If you're not sure of your enrolment details, you can [check your enrolment online](http://www.aec.gov.au/check) ([www.aec.gov.au/check](http://www.aec.gov.au/check)).

### How long can you live overseas before being removed from the electoral roll?

You can apply to be registered as an overseas voter if you intend to return within six years of leaving Australia. This will ensure that your name is not removed from the electoral roll while you are outside Australia and that you can vote in federal elections and referendums held while you are overseas. The registration form is available on our website [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) . If you registered as an overseas elector, **you will be expected to vote.**

### Do overseas voting centres have how-to-vote cards?

Political parties are responsible for distributing their own campaign material – including [how-to-vote cards](#). Where they have been provided to an OVC, they will be made available for voters.

### **My relative left before their postal vote arrived. Can I fill it out?**

No.

You cannot complete a vote for someone else - each voter must complete their own ballot papers.

If there is time you can forward the papers to them, otherwise, you should destroy the ballot papers.

### **Why doesn't the AEC use electronic voting?**

The AEC conducts federal elections in accordance with the Electoral Act, as legislated by the Australian Parliament. The legislation does not allow for electronic voting.

### **Why do they supply pencils in polling booths and not pens?**

The provision of pencils in polling booths is a requirement of section 206 of the *Commonwealth Electoral ACT 1918*. There is, however nothing to prevent an elector from marking his or her ballot paper with a pen if they so wish.

### **Why can't I vote for the Prime Minister?**

The Prime Minister is not elected via a public vote. You vote for a single Member of Parliament for your Division. The leader of the political party that forms government will be appointed Prime Minister.