

Community Electoral Education Kit

Speaking notes and Optional activities

TOPIC 3: Where do I go to vote?

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Goal

On completion of this topic participants will understand there are various ways in which voters can cast their vote in a federal election.

How to use this kit

It is important that all Australian citizens understand how to participate in the Australian electoral system. Thank you for your role in helping your community find out more.

The Community Electoral Education Kit provides everything needed to conduct engaging and informative electoral awareness workshops. The kit covers five topics which seek to answer questions participating groups might have about the Australian electoral system:

- Topic 1: Australian democracy
- Topic 2: Do I have to enrol and vote?
- Topic 3: Where do I go to vote?
- Topic 4: What happens on election day?
- Topic 5: How do I make sure my vote gets counted?

Each of the topics features:

- speaking notes in plain English
- presentation slides
- background notes to support deeper understanding.

Some topics also feature engaging learning activities.

The kit is designed to be flexible. Presenters can deliver all topics in a single session, or pick and choose the elements most relevant to their community. The topics are numbered in the order they are intended to be followed.


Topics may require preparation, such as printing activity resources or arranging projectors and screens. We recommend presenters allow at least a day to read each topic and prepare before presenting it to an audience.

Background notes can be found at the end of this topic. Supporting resources and further information can be found on the Australian Electoral Commission website at www.aec.gov.au/community.

You can email any questions to community@aec.gov.au, and you will receive a response within three business days.

Please note: This topic should take about five minutes to deliver.

Preparation Checklist

<i>These tasks should be completed prior to presenting this session</i>	
<i>Task</i>	
Read the topic content in full to ensure you are comfortable with the speaking notes.	
Print off hard copies of the workshop topic and speaking notes.	
Download Topic 3 'Where do I go to vote?' slide show presentation from www.aec.gov.au/community	
Prepare your presentation space, including any technology you are planning to use.	
Ensure you are comfortable with the speaking notes and any activity procedures.	
<i>You may wish to add further checklist items below:</i>	

Background notes

Ordinary vote

An ordinary vote is a vote cast by a voter at a polling place or at an early voting centre (see below) within the electorate for which they are enrolled. This is the simplest way to vote and the method used by the majority of voters.

Absent vote

An absent vote is a vote cast by a voter out of their home electorate but still within their home state or territory on election day.

Early vote

You can vote early either in person or by post if on election day you:

- are outside the electorate where you are enrolled to vote
- are more than 8km from a polling place
- are travelling
- are unable to leave your workplace to vote
- are seriously ill, infirm or due to give birth shortly (or caring for someone who is)
- are a patient in hospital and can't vote at the hospital
- have religious beliefs that prevent you from attending a polling place
- are in prison serving a sentence of less than three years or otherwise detained
- are a silent elector
- have a reasonable fear for your safety.

Postal vote

After an election is announced, you can apply for a postal vote online at www.aec.gov.au, or complete a postal vote application form.

Interstate vote on election day

An interstate vote can be cast on election day at interstate voting centres by voters who are not in their home state or territory.

Overseas

For federal elections, voters who are overseas can vote in person at an overseas voting centre (most Australian embassies or missions) or by post. For more information about voting overseas please see http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/overseas/index.htm.

Provisional vote

A provisional vote is cast in circumstances where a voter's name cannot be found on the roll or the name has already been marked off the roll. The vote cannot be counted until a careful check of enrolment records and entitlements has been made.

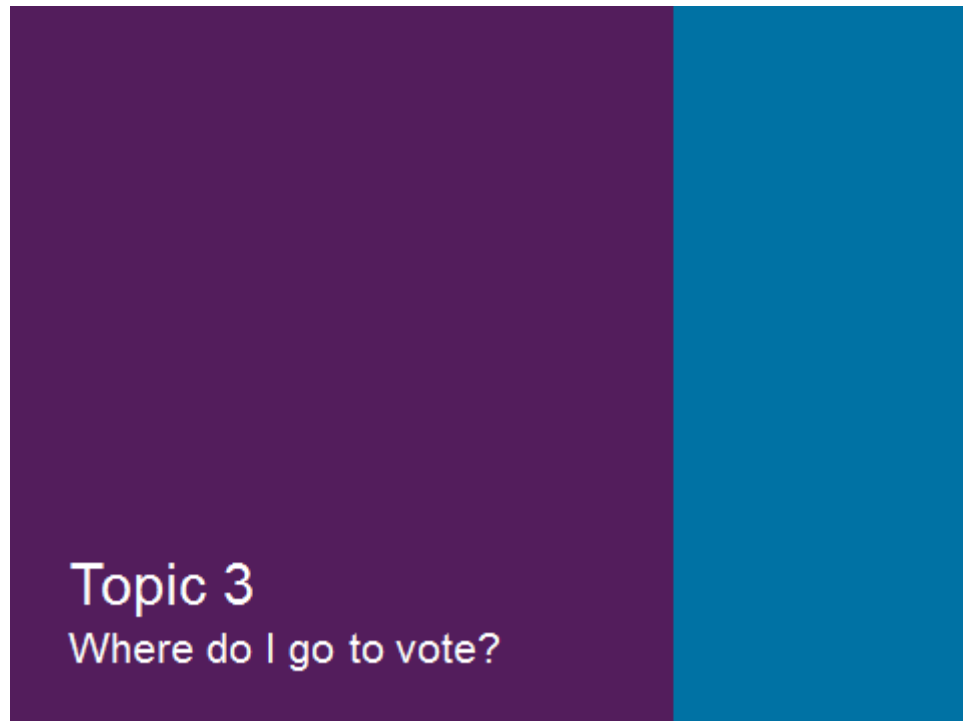
Voters making an absent, postal, early (not in own electorate), interstate or provisional vote must complete a declaration envelope giving their personal details. This will be checked by divisional staff before the votes are counted.

Mobile polling

AEC mobile polling teams visit many voters who are not able to get to a polling place. Mobile polling facilities are set up in some hospitals, nursing homes, prisons and remote areas of Australia. Mobile polling is carried out around Australia prior to election day and on election day.

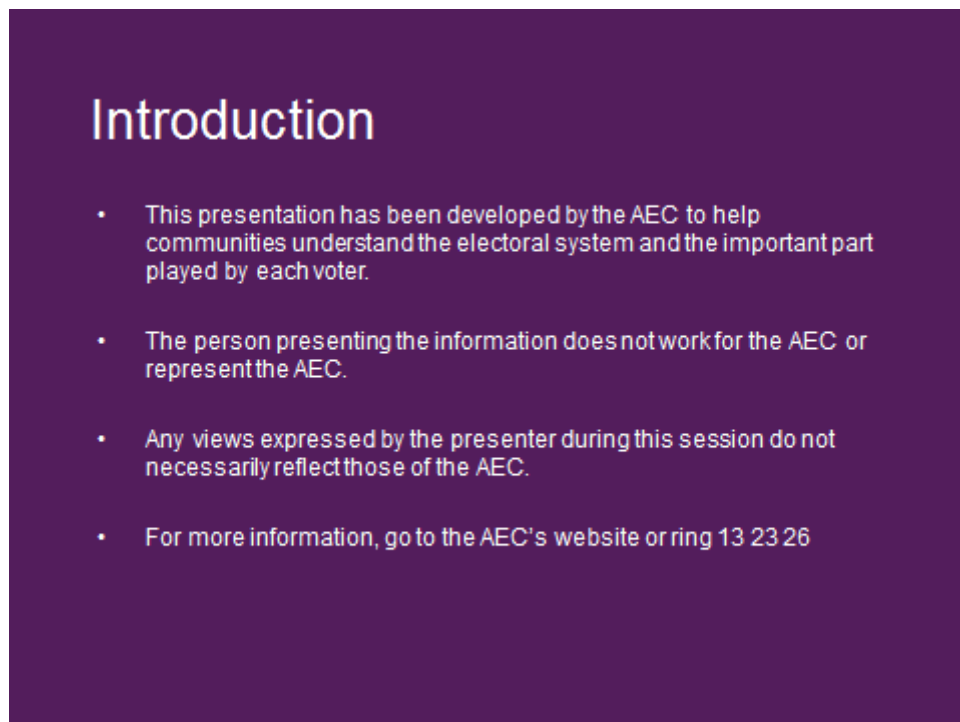
Speaking Notes

Slide 1 of 6 Where do I go to vote?



- This topic will provide information about the options you have for voting in a federal election.

Slide 2 of 6 Introduction



Introduction

- This presentation has been developed by the AEC to help communities understand the electoral system and the important part played by each voter.
- The person presenting the information does not work for the AEC or represent the AEC.
- Any views expressed by the presenter during this session do not necessarily reflect those of the AEC.
- For more information, go to the AEC's website or ring 13 23 26

- This presentation was developed by the Australian Electoral Commission, or AEC.
- The AEC is responsible for:
 - delivering federal elections and referendums
 - maintaining the Commonwealth electoral roll
 - providing electoral information and
 - providing education programs.
- I do not work for the AEC, and I do not represent the AEC.
- Any opinions I express are my own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the AEC.

Slide 3 of 6 Polling places

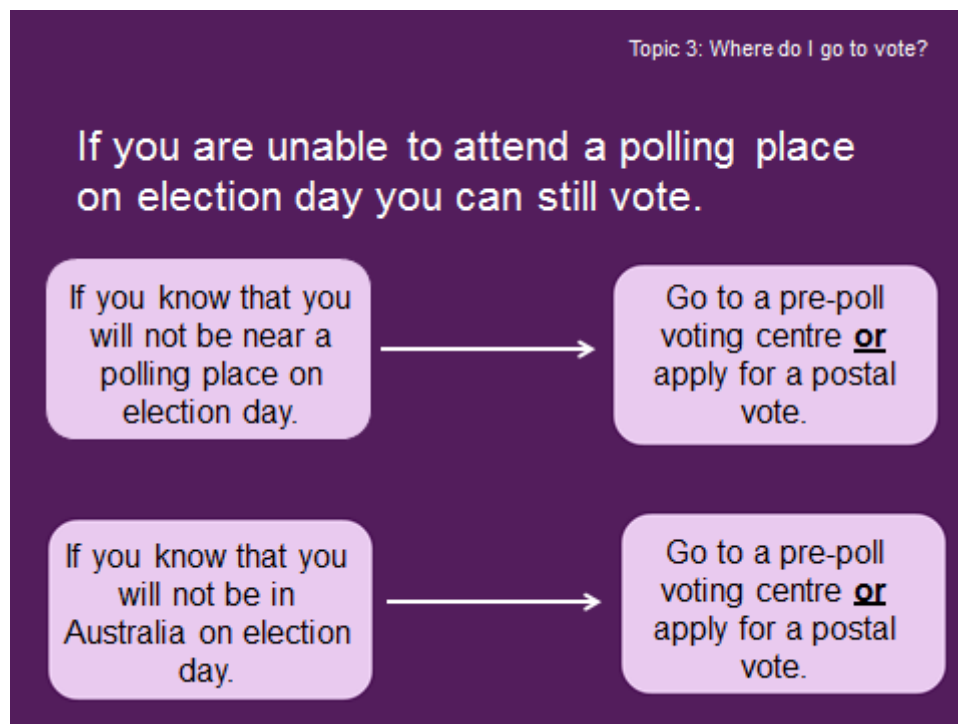
Topic 3: Where do I go to vote?

- This topic will provide information about the options you have for voting in a federal election.
- Venues which are commonly used as polling places are schools, community halls and church halls.



- Most people vote on election day at a polling place close to their home.
- Venues which are commonly used as polling places are schools, community halls and church halls.
- At election time you can find out your nearest polling place by checking the AEC website.
- A list of polling places will also be printed in major newspapers on the day before election day.

Slide 4 of 6 If you are unable to attend a polling place



- If you are unable to attend a polling place on election day you can still vote.
- There are several ways you can do this, depending on your circumstances. For example:
 - If you know you will not be near a polling place on election day you can go to a pre-poll voting centre or you can apply for a postal vote.
 - If you will not be in Australia on election day you can go to a pre-poll voting centre or apply for a postal vote. In some countries you may be able to vote at an Australian consulate or embassy.

Slide 5 of 6

Topic 3: Where do I go to vote?

If you cannot get to a polling place on election day, and you are not sure what to do:

Visit the Australian Electoral Commission website
www.aec.gov.au/Voting

Or

Phone the Australian Electoral Commission information line
13 23 26

 **AEC**
Australian Electoral Commission

- Most people will vote at their local polling place on election day.
- If you can't get to your polling place you must still vote, and the Australian Electoral Commission provides a range of options.
- You can visit their website or call their information line for details.

Slide 6 of 6

- That concludes Topic 3.
- If you have any questions you can visit the Australian Electoral Commission website or call their information hotline.

Disclaimer

This material is general in nature. It is made available on the understanding that the Commonwealth is not thereby engaged in rendering professional advice.

Before relying on the material in any important matter, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purposes, and should obtain any appropriate professional advice relevant to their particular circumstances.

In some cases the material may incorporate or summarise views, guidelines or recommendations of third parties. Such material is assembled in good faith, but does not necessarily reflect the considered views of the Commonwealth, or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

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