# Voting in a federal election By mail

**A SOCIAL STORY** 



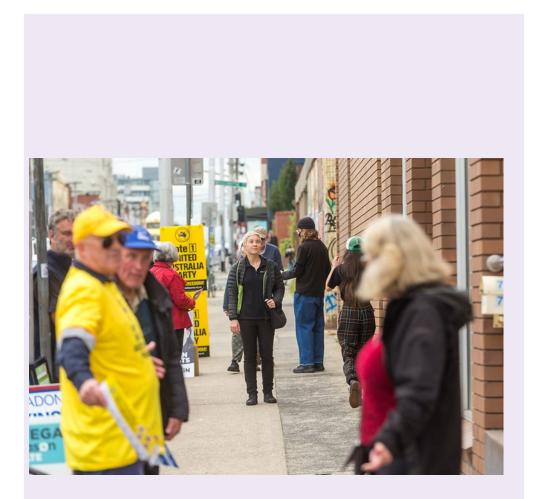


# I will vote at the **federal** election.

A federal election is when we choose who is part of Australia's government.

When I vote, I help to choose who is part of Australia's government.

The Prime Minister will choose the date for the election.



The government makes decisions on our behalf about how to run our country.

It is important for me to have a say about who makes the decisions that affect me.



For me to make the best choice possible I can research the candidates or get advice from someone I trust.

My vote is secret. It's my choice who I vote for, and I don't need to tell anyone how I voted unless I want to.

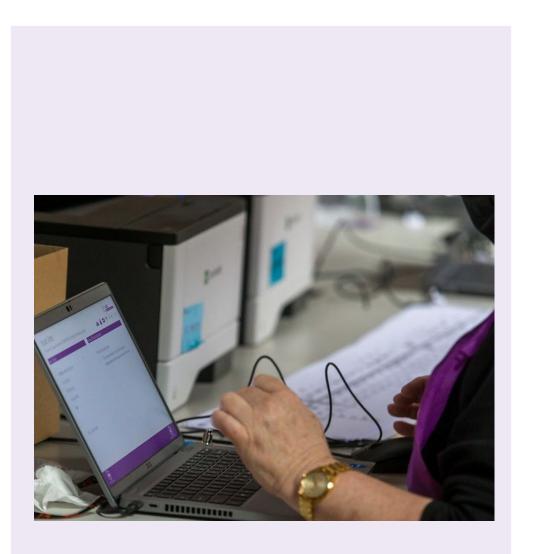


A **polling place** is a building where you can go to vote.

If I can't vote in a polling place I can still vote.

I can receive my ballot papers through the mail.

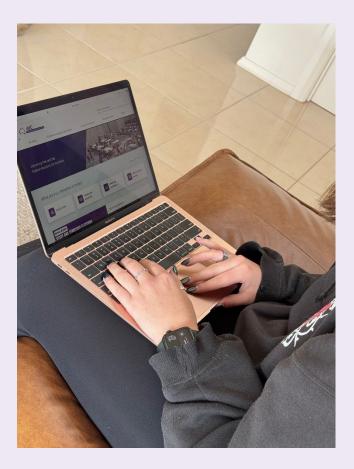
This is called a postal vote.



To receive a postal vote, I must apply by filling out a postal vote application.

I can do this by filling out an online application at <u>www.aec.gov.au/pva</u>.

Or I can pick up a postal vote application form from an AEC office.



I can apply for a postal vote once the election date is announced.

It is important for me to submit my postal vote application as soon as possible but it must be submitted no later than 6pm on the Wednesday before voting day.







I can email my application to: applications@pva.aec.gov.au

I can send it in the mail:

Australian Electoral Commission Reply Paid 9988 (My capital city) (No stamp is needed if posted in Australia)

In person: www.aec.gov.au for my nearest office.



To fill out my postal vote application, I need to gather some information:

If I'm not sure how to do this, I can ask someone I trust for help. For example, a friend, carer or support worker.

I will need to write my full name – this includes my family name (or surname) and then my given names.

I will also need to write the date I was born.

#### 3. FULL ENROLLED ADDRESS

Please include your street/road and unit number (if applicable).

If you are unsure of your enrolled address please visit www.aec.gov.au/check or call 13 23 26

State/territory	Postcode	

Then, I need to write my address.

This address is the same as the one I gave when I enrolled to vote.

It is probably the address where I live now.

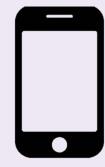
#### **4. POSTAL ADDRESS** This is where your voting papers will be mailed to and can be an address in Australia or overseas. Same as above State/territory Postcode House of Representatives Ballot Paper BB State Electoral Division of Division Name Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice SURNAME, Given Names Senate Ballot Pape SURNAME, Given Names You may vote in one of two ways SURNAME, Given Names L060 L060 Above the line emember... number every box to ma PARTY PARTY PARTY PARTY PARTY Below the line SURNAME Diven Names With SURNAME Oven Rames Given Names Given Names Given Rames SURNAME Given Names VORth 214 Civen Names SURMAME Given Namer SURMANE Given Namer SURMAME Given Names SURNAME Given Name SURNAME Given Mames SURNAME Siven Name SURNAME Given Name SURMAME Given Name SURNAME Given Name SURMAME Given Name

It is important my ballot papers get to me so I need to answer the question, "Where should we send your ballot papers?"

Ballot papers are forms to show who you can vote for.

I will write the address where I would like to receive my ballot papers.



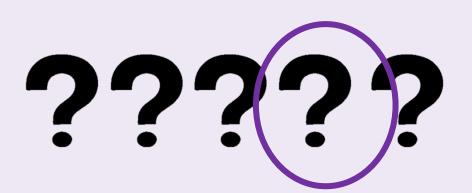




In case the AEC need to contact me with any questions I need to give them:

- My email address (if I have one)
- My mobile phone number
- My home phone number (if I have one)

My mobile phone and home phone number might be the same.



#### 6. SECURITY QUESTION AND ANSWER

Your security question and answer is used to help verify your postal vote. When you receive your postal vote you will be asked to write your answer on the envelope containing your ballot papers.

Select one security question and write your answer below.

- A: In what town/city were you born?
- B: What company did you first work for?
- C: What was the last school you attended?
- D: What was the make/model of your first car?
- E: What is the middle name of your oldest child?

Answer				

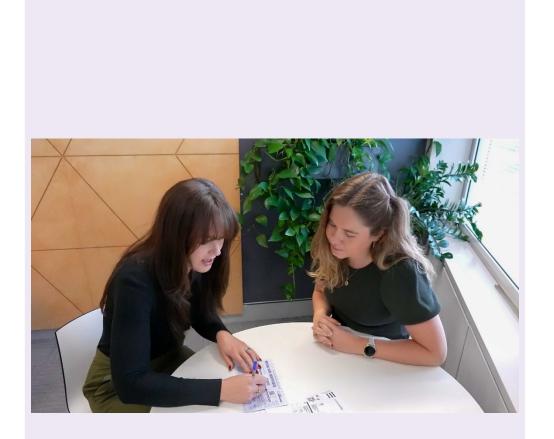
I will need to choose **one** of the five security questions.

This is like a password.

I can decide which security question and write my own answer.

I need to remember my answer.

I can choose to write the answer down somewhere safe if I am worried about forgetting it.



I will need to sign the application and put the date I signed it.



When it is time to vote, the AEC will send me my ballot papers.

I will get 2 ballot papers – a white one and a green one, along with a white envelope.

Attached to the green ballot paper I will have a blue certificate.



# The blue certificate explains who I am.

It has my name, my address and the security question I chose.



I will also get a white envelope to put my ballot papers and blue certificate in when I have finished voting.



Before I vote I must ask someone to witness my blank ballot papers.

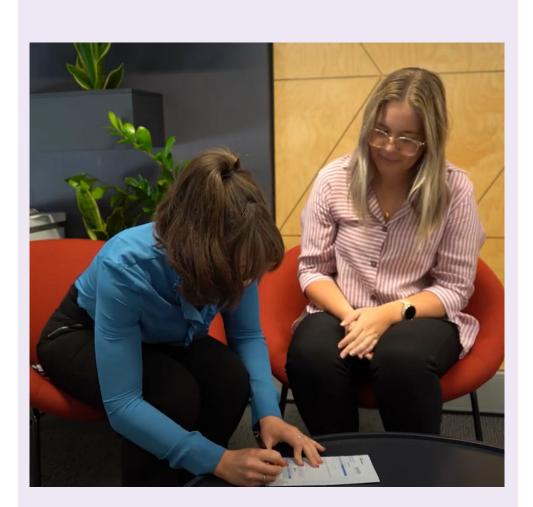
A witness might be someone I know, such as a family member, a friend or a support person.

My witness must be on the electoral roll which means they are able to vote.



My witness needs to make sure I fill out my own ballot papers.

Before I fill them out, I will show my witness the blank ballot papers and the blue certificate.



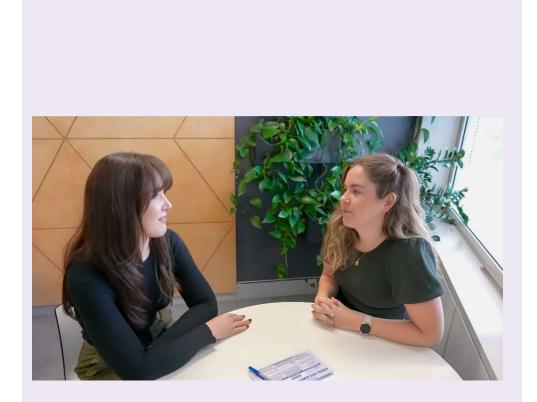
The blue certificate explains who I am and will include:

- My name
- My address
- The security question I gave the AEC in my application

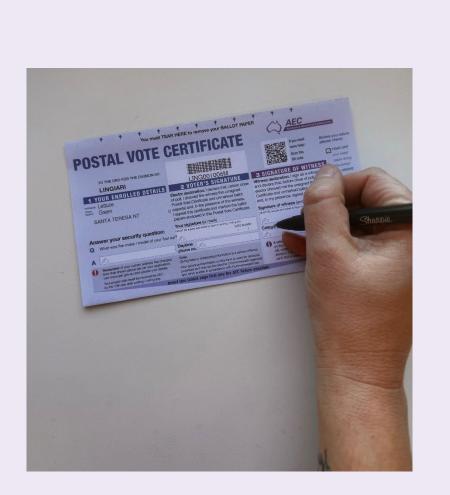
I will answer the security question. I need to make sure that this is the same answer I gave on my application.

I may have written this answer down and kept it in a safe place.

After that I will sign my name.

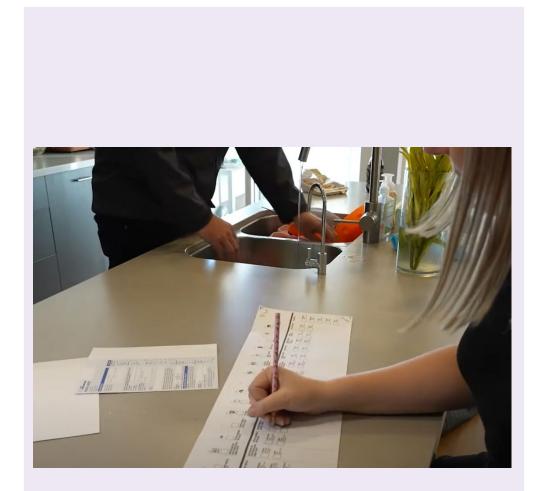


If I am not sure what to do, I can ask my witness to help me fill in my blue certificate.



When I have finished filling out the blue certificate, my witness will need to sign it and write the date.

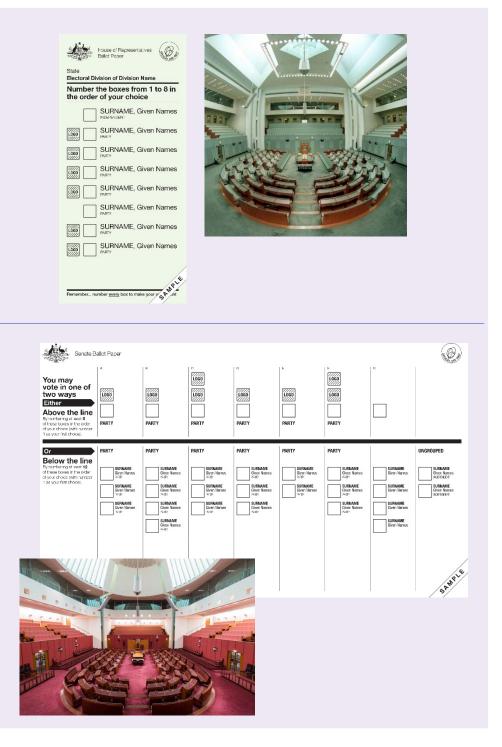
My witness and I must both sign the blue certificate by 6pm on voting day.



### Now I am ready to vote.

I will fill out my ballot papers in the presence of my witness, but I also need to remember my vote is secret.

This means I need to fill out my ballot papers in a way that my witness cannot see who I am voting for.



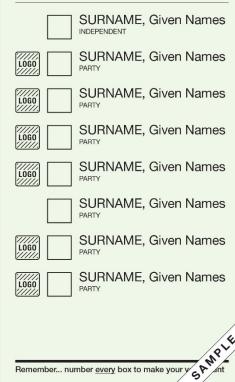
I will need to fill out two ballot papers:

- A green ballot paper for the House of Representatives (also known as the Lower House)
- A white ballot paper for the Senate (also known as the Upper House)



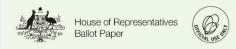
State Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice



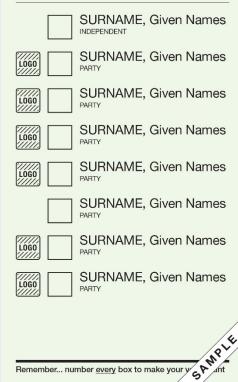
The green ballot paper has a list of all the candidates I can vote for. These are the candidates who want to be part of the House of Representatives.

If the candidate belongs to a political party, it will be written under their name.



State Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice



On the green ballot paper, I need to write 1 in the box next to my favourite candidate, then 2 in the box for my second favourite.

There are instructions on the ballot paper telling me how many numbers to write.

I need to keep writing numbers in the order I choose until all the boxes are filled.

Sonate B You may vote in one of two ways Either Above the line by functions at way functions at way function	allot Paper	5	G [] [] [] [] PARTY	D LIGO PARTY	E LIGEO PARTY	F [1000] [1000] [1000] [1000] PARTY	0	æ,
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The white ballot paper is for the Senate, and it has a list of all the candidates I can vote for.

Senate B	allot Paper							a Bar
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There is a list of groups above the black line.

Most of the groups are political parties.

A political party is a group of people who:

- Share some of the same ideas
- Work together on a plan for how government should run our country.

There is a list of candidates below the black line.

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There are two ways I can vote, and I get to choose but I cannot do both.

I can vote above the line and vote for political parties.

Or

I can vote below the line and vote for candidates.

I should read and follow the instructions on the ballot paper carefully to make sure my vote counts.

## Write numbers 1 – 6

### 1 = my favourite

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You may vote in one of two ways Either By number at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice with number 1 as your first choice).	A LOGO S PARTY	PARTY	CUERCO LOGO LOGO PARTY	D LOGO PARTY	E LOGO B PARTY	F LOGO LOGO ARTY	° 4	

To vote above the line, I must number the boxes **above** the black line in the order I choose.

I will write a number 1 in the box for my favourite group, then 2 in the box for my second favourite.

I need to keep going until I have written numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

I must keep numbering boxes above the line until I have filled at least 6 boxes.

I can finish at 6 or keep going and put numbers in as many boxes above the line as I like.

When I have finished numbering the boxes above the line, I have finished filling in my Senate ballot paper.

Or PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY		UNGROUPED
of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).	RNAME IN Names IN RNAME RNAME IN RNAME IN SURNAME Given Names SURNAME Given Names	SURVANE Green Names net? SURVANE Green Names Survary Pret? Chron Names	6 SURNAME Green Kanes Print Green Kanes Marry Norry 12 SURNAME Suren Kanes Norry	10 SURVANE Green Names JUP SURVANE SURVANE Name Name Name Name Name Name Name Name	SURNAME Green Names near Prear SURNAME Green Names SURNAME Green Names	SURNAME Green Names           SURNAME Green Names           SURNAME Green Names           SURNAME Green Names	SURANCE Generations Generations T Surannee Reproces

## Write numbers 1 – 12

1 = my favourite

To vote below the line, I must number the boxes **below** the black line in the order I choose.

I will write 1 in the box next to my favourite candidate, then 2 in the box for my second favourite. I need to keep going until I have written numbers 1 to 12.

I must number boxes below the line until I have filled in at least 12 boxes. I can finish at 12 or I can keep going and put numbers in as many boxes below the line as I like.

When I have finished numbering the boxes below the line, I have finished filling in my Senate ballot paper.



When I have filled out my ballot papers, I need to make sure they are in the white envelope correctly, ready to be mailed back to the AEC.

I can do this by:

- Folding the blue certificate in half
- Folding my ballot papers
- Putting my ballot papers inside the folded blue certificate

There are instructions to help me do this, but I can also ask someone I trust to help me if I am not sure.



I will put the folded blue certificate with the ballot papers in the white return envelope and seal it.



I must complete my postal vote on or before election day.

It is important that I get my ballot papers back to the AEC as soon as possible.

I must make sure my postal vote has arrived at the AEC no later than 13 days after the election.



I need to take the white return envelope with my ballot papers sealed inside to an Australia Post mailbox. I don't need to use a stamp.

I can ask someone I trust to help me with this.



When my white return envelope has been put in the mailbox, I have finished voting.



Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra

