



Your official guide to the Aston by-election

Part 1: Introduction

This guide is only relevant to people who are enrolled to vote in the federal electoral division of Aston in Victoria.

The Aston by-election will be held on Saturday 1 April 2023. Polling places open at 8am and close at 6pm sharp.

Voting is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 years and older. If you vote more than once it is a criminal offence.

If you are blind or have low vision, you may be able to vote by telephone. There is more information on telephone voting in **Part 6** of this guide.

Why is there a by-election?

You will be voting for a representative for the federal electoral division of Aston in the House of Representatives. This by-election is being held following the resignation of the Member for Aston.

Who has to vote?

If you are enrolled in the federal electoral division of Aston you are required to vote in the by-election. If you are not sure whether you are enrolled in the division of Aston, you should check your enrolment information at www.aec.gov.au/check or call **13 23 26** if you need help.

Part 2: What if I can't make it on by-election day?

If you can't make it to a polling place on voting day, you may be entitled to vote early.

To check if you are eligible to vote early at either an early voting centre or by post visit www.aec.gov.au/aston.

Voting early by post

If you are entitled to vote early you can apply for a postal vote online at aec.gov.au/aston/pva.htm

Please call **13 23 26** if you don't have online access and want to apply for a postal vote.

The AEC must receive your application as soon as possible and no later than 6pm local time Wednesday 29 March 2023.

Telephone voting

If you are blind or have low vision, you may be entitled to vote by phone. More information is available in **Part 6** of this guide.

Voting early in person

If you are entitled to vote early, you can vote at an early voting centre (below) from Monday 20 March 2023 to Friday 31 March 2023.

Changes may occur to the information below. Visit www.aec.gov.au/aston to see the final list of early voting centres and to check opening dates and hours.

ROWVILLE

1350 Ferntree Gully Road

SCORESBY

St Jude's Parish Centre, 51 George Street

BORONIA

Boronia Community Church of Christ, 59 Boronia Road

For further information about early voting options and eligibility visit www.aec.gov.au/aston or call **13 23 26**.

Plan ahead before you vote

Do your research on candidates and preferences before you go to vote. A list of the candidates is available at www.aec.gov.au/aston

You can take measures to keep yourself and others safe while voting. Visit www.aec.gov.au/aston for the latest updates and advice.

Part 3: What happens at the polling place?

Hand sanitiser will be available, and you are encouraged to bring and wear your face mask and maintain physical distance. You can use a clean AEC pencil, or you can bring your own pencil or pen.

When you reach the ballot paper issuing point, a polling official will ask for your full name and address, and if you have voted before in the 2023 Aston by-election. Your name will be marked off the electoral roll.

- You will be given your green ballot paper for the House of Representatives.
- Read the instructions on your ballot paper carefully.
- Complete your ballot paper. You must number every box to make your vote count.

- Once you have completed your ballot paper, fold it and place it in the ballot box provided.
- Deposit your AEC pencil in the box on the way out. There will be hand sanitiser available near the exit.

Remember, if you need help, you can ask a polling official.

The AEC takes the safety of our voters and election workers seriously with appropriate COVID-19 measures. The AEC continues to monitor the COVID-19 environment and follows advice from relevant health authorities. Information in this guide reflects circumstances at the time of printing. This may result in changes to the measures put in place.

Where can I vote on by-election day?

You can vote at any polling place in the federal electoral division of Aston on voting day.

Please note that polling place locations may have changed since you last voted. At the time of printing this

publication, the locations of some polling places were yet to be confirmed.

Final locations are available at www.aec.gov.au/aston

The final list of polling places, along with a list of candidates, will be published in the *Ferntree Gully Belgrave Star Mail* on Tuesday 28 March, *The Herald Sun* on Friday 31 March, and the *The Age* on Friday 31 March.

For accessible voting options and information, visit www.aec.gov.au/aston or call **13 23 26**.

BAYSWATER

Bayswater Primary School

Bayswater South Primary School

Bayswater West Primary School

BORONIA

Boronia Heights Primary School

Boronia K–12 College

Boronia West Primary School

Knox Central Primary School

FERNTREE GULLY

Fairhills Primary School
Ferntree Gully North Primary School
Kent Park Primary School
Mountain Gate Primary School
St John the Baptist Primary School
Wattleview Primary School

KNOXFIELD

Carrington Primary School
Knox Park Primary School

LYSTERFIELD

Lysterfield Primary School

ROWVILLE

Heany Park Primary School
Karoo Primary School
Park Ridge Primary School
Rowville Community Centre
Rowville Primary School
St. Simon The Apostle Primary School

SCORESBY

1350 Ferntree Gully Road

St Jude's Parish Centre

THE BASIN

St Bernadette's Primary School

UPPER FERNTREE GULLY

Upper Ferntree Gully Primary School

WANTIRNA

Templeton Primary School

Wantirna College

Wantirna Primary School

WANTIRNA SOUTH

Knox Gardens Primary School

The Knox School

Wantirna South Primary School

You can check the accessibility rating and details of polling places at www.aec.gov.au/aston. For blind and low vision voting options call 13 23 26.

Part 4: How to make your vote count

Stop and consider—check the source this by-election

During electoral events there is a large amount of information being distributed which is seeking to influence your vote.

It's important that you consider what you see, hear or read. Take the time to consider whether the information is from a reliable or recognisable source, and is current and safe (not a scam). If you have doubts about information, there are questions you can ask to help you form your own opinion and make a decision. To find out more visit www.aec.gov.au/stopandconsider

How to vote correctly

For the Aston by-election you will be given a green ballot paper.

You will be voting for a representative for the federal electoral division of Aston in the House of Representatives.

Number every box in the order of your choice.

Don't worry if you make a mistake. You can ask for another ballot paper and start again.

You can practise voting at www.aec.gov.au/practise

Part 5: Alternative versions of this guide

Information in accessible formats

You can download alternative formats of this guide, such as audio and large print, from www.aec.gov.au/aston. Braille is also available on request by calling **13 23 26**.

People who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS):

- TTY users phone 13 36 77 and quote 13 23 26.
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 and quote 13 23 26.
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 13 23 26.

Translated versions of this guide are available in Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional) and Vietnamese from www.aec.gov.au/aston.

For information about voting and elections in other languages call the number listed next to your preferred language.

- **Arabic** 1300 720 132
- **Burmese** 1300 290 617
- **Cantonese** 1300 720 135
- **Croatian** 1300 720 136
- **Dari** 1300 290 618
- **Farsi (Persian)** 1300 290 619

- **Greek** 1300 720 137
- **Italian** 1300 720 138
- **Khmer** 1300 720 134
- **Korean** 1300 720 468
- **Macedonian** 1300 720 139
- **Mandarin** 1300 720 142
- **Polish** 1300 720 143
- **Portuguese** 1300 720 145
- **Russian** 1300 720 146
- **Serbian** 1300 720 147
- **Spanish** 1300 720 148
- **Turkish** 1300 720 149
- **Vietnamese** 1300 720 152
- **Other languages** 1300 720 153

Part 6: Additional information for voters in Aston who are blind or have low vision

This additional information is for people who are blind or have low vision and are enrolled to vote in the federal electoral division of Aston in Victoria.

Telephone voting option

If you are blind or have low vision, in addition to postal voting or voting at a polling place, you have the option to cast your vote by telephone.

Voters who are blind or have low vision can cast a vote by telephone from any location by calling **1800 913 993**.

Telephone voting is a simple two-step process and AEC voting assistants are available to assist you through the process.

Step 1: Call to register

If you wish to vote by telephone, you must first register by calling **1800 913 993**.

Registration is available on weekdays between 8.30am and 5.30pm AEDT from Monday 20 March until Friday 31 March 2023. It is also available on by-election Saturday 1 April 2023, from 8am to 12 midday AEDT.

You will be asked questions to check your details on the electoral roll, and will be asked to choose a PIN number.

You will then receive a telephone voting registration number by your choice of an email, SMS or phone call.

Step 2: Call to vote

Once you have received your registration number and chosen your PIN, you will need to call again to cast your vote.

Telephone voting will commence from Monday 20 March 2023.

Voting will be available on weekdays between 8.30am and 5.30pm AEDT. It will also be available from 8am to 6pm AEDT on by-election Saturday 1 April 2023.

To cast your vote, call **1800 913 993**.

When you call, do not give your name, or any information that could identify you (for example your address).

Please have your telephone voting registration number and chosen PIN number ready.

With these numbers you can vote anonymously without giving your name, and these will be used to mark you off the electoral roll.

An AEC voting assistant will record your vote. A second voting assistant will ensure your vote is recorded as you intended.

Your vote remains secret because the AEC voting assistant will not know your name or address.

Once your vote is complete, the voting assistant will place the ballot paper into a secure ballot box.

Remember, you have until 12 midday AEDT on by-election Saturday 1 April 2023 to register, and until 6pm AEDT to cast your vote.

Accessible information

List of candidates

The list of candidates contesting the Aston by-election is now available.

You can listen to the list of candidates at www.aec.gov.au/aston by using the Read Speaker application on the AEC's website to read the content aloud.

You can also save content from the AEC's website, including the list of candidates, as an MP3 file by using the Read Speaker application.

The list of candidates is also available in accessible file formats as e-text, large print and audio MP3 at www.aec.gov.au/assistance.

Alternatively, you can request a copy of the list of candidates to be sent to you in e-text, large print, audio or braille by calling the AEC on 13 23 26.

Accessible formats of this guide

The official guide to Aston by-election is also available in accessible formats.

You can download an audio MP3, e-text or a large print PDF format from www.aec.gov.au/assistance.

Alternatively, you can call the AEC on **13 23 26** to have a braille, e-text, audio or large print format sent to you.

**Authorised by the Australian Electoral Officer for
Victoria**

**Level 8, Casselden, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne,
Victoria**