Qualifications for an applicant. You are entitled to apply for a postal vote if you are enrolled as a silent elector, or because you will be absent from your enrolled State or Territory or will not be within 8km of a polling booth between 8am and 6pm on polling day, or you will be unable to get to a polling booth for any one of the following reasons:

- you will be travelling under conditions which will prevent you attending a polling booth;
- you are sick, infirm or about to give birth;
- you are caring for the sick or infirm;
- you will be working on polling day;
- you are unable to vote because of your religious beliefs; or
- you are in prison or in lawful custody.

Postal Voting. An application for a postal vote may be made to any Divisional Returning Officer at any time after the announcement of the election/referendum. However, you should keep in mind that the application must reach the Divisional Returning Officer by the last mail clearance on the Thursday before polling day to allow for the voting papers to be sent to you for completion and posting before the close of the voting.

Reply paid envelopes for posting your application, if not provided, are available at any Post Office within Australia.

Pre-Poll Voting. Voters who qualify for a postal vote can cast a pre-poll vote if it is more convenient. Pre-poll voting is available at any Divisional Office or at any of the advertised Pre-Poll Voting Centres (PPVCs). The location of PPVCs will be published in newspapers in the period leading up to polling day.

Overseas Voting. Overseas electors may make a personal application at the office of any Assistant Returning Officer appointed at various locations such as Australian embassies, consulates or High Commissions. Facilities are available during ordinary local office hours and at any special times arranged locally. Written applications may also be made to these offices or to any Divisional Office in Australia. Faxed applications will be processed but not acknowledged. Please keep in mind that the application should reach the issuing officer by the last mail clearance on the Thursday before polling day to allow for the voting papers to be sent to you for completion and posting before the close of poll.

Further information. A special telephone enquiry service is available at election or referendum time. The special telephone number is 132326. Locations of all polling facilities may be obtained from this service or by contacting any officer of the Australian Electoral Commission. The Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984 allows for public inspection of postal vote applications at the Divisional Office from the third day after polling until the referendum can no longer be questioned.

Need Help?

Interpreters Services

For Information in a language other than English, please phone:

- Arabic 1300 720 132
- Cantonese 1300 720 135
- Greek 1300 720 137
- Italian 1300 720 138
- Mandarin 1300 720 142
- Spanish 1300 720 148
- Vietnamese 1300 720 152
- Other languages 1300 720 153

For Enrolment and Voting Information Visit our Website at: www.aec.gov.au or Phone 132326

Information for a Witness

Qualifications for a witness. A witness must be an elector whose name appears on a Commonwealth of Australia electoral roll. However, where an application is made overseas, the following persons may also act as witnesses:

- an elector;
- an officer of the armed forces of Australia or of a part of the Queen's dominions;
- a person in the Public Service of Australia; or a State or Territory, or of a part of the Queen's dominions;
- a Justice of the Peace for, a minister of religion or medical practitioner resident in, a Territory or a part of the Queen's dominions; or
- an Australian citizen.

Duties of a witness. A witness must:

- be satisfied as to the identity of the applicant;
- see the applicant sign the application;
- be satisfied that the statements contained in the application are true; and
- sign the application, add the date, name and address of the witness.