

How to vote – Voters who are blind or have low vision

Factsheet

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has a range of information and services to support voters who are blind or have low vision for the 2013 federal election.

For the 2013 federal election, voters who are blind or have low vision will have the option to:

- cast a vote over the telephone from any location, or
- cast a vote with assistance at any polling place or by post.

Telephone voting

Voters who are blind or have low vision can vote in secret, by telephone, from any location, without the need to attend an AEC office.



Register – Voters must register to cast their vote by telephone. Registration for telephone voting opens Monday 19 August and ends at 12 noon AEST on election day, Saturday 7 September 2013.

To register, voters need to call 1800 913 993. When a voter calls to register, they will be asked to select a PIN. Once registered, they will receive an acknowledgment letter at their enrolled address. The registration number can also be received by post, email, SMS or through a phone call.



Call to vote – Telephone voting starts on Tuesday 20 August and ends at 6pm AEST on election day, Saturday 7 September 2013.

To vote, registered voters will call 1800 913 993. They will not need to give their name. Their registration number and PIN will be used to mark their name off the electoral roll while protecting their privacy. It is important that voters do not forget their registration details.



Vote – A call centre voting assistant will record the voter's preferences on the ballot papers. The vote will be secret and a second voting assistant will ensure that the vote is recorded according to the voter's intention.

The vote remains secret because the call centre voting assistants will not know the voter's name and address. They will only know which electorate and state or territory voters live in. Once the vote is complete, the voting assistant will place the ballot papers into a secure ballot box.

For more information on telephone voting visit www.aec.gov.au or call 13 23 26.



Assisted voting options

Voters who are blind or have low vision may choose to cast a vote with assistance at a polling place or by post.

The voter may choose an assistant to help cast their vote. The assistant reads the contents of the ballot paper then completes the ballot paper according to the voter's preferences.

In the case of a postal vote, the assistant may complete the ballot papers and envelope, but the voter must sign the envelope or make a mark as a signature.

For more information about assisted voting or to apply for a postal vote visit www.aec.gov.au or call 13 23 26.

Official guide

The official guide to the election provides information on when and where to vote, polling place assistance available and how to vote correctly. The guide will be available in the following accessible formats:

- audio CD
- braille
- large print
- e-text
- MP3 file

The audio MP3, e-text and large print PDF versions will be available for download at www.aec.gov.au. Braille, large print, and audio CDs will be available in hard copy on request from the AEC on 13 23 26.

Candidate lists

Lists of candidates for the House of Representatives and the Senate will be available in accessible formats from Monday 19 August. E-text and large print PDFs for each electorate, state and territory will be available at www.aec.gov.au. MP3 or braille versions will be available on request by calling 13 23 26.



For more information on the services available to support voters who are blind or have low vision, including telephone voting, visit www.aec.gov.au or call **13 23 26**.