

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.

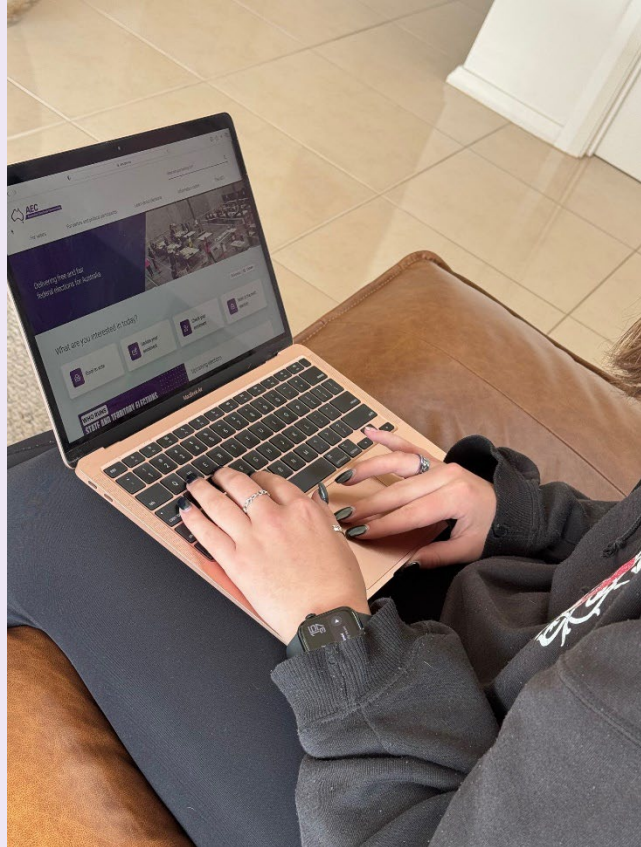
This is called a postal vote.



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

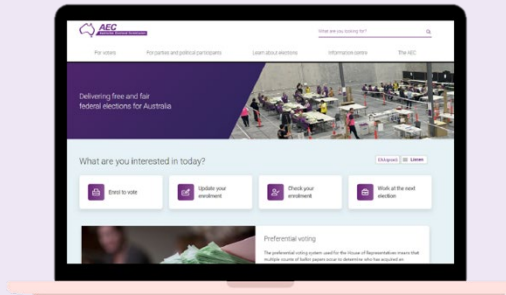
I can do this by filling out an online application at www.aec.gov.au/pva.

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.



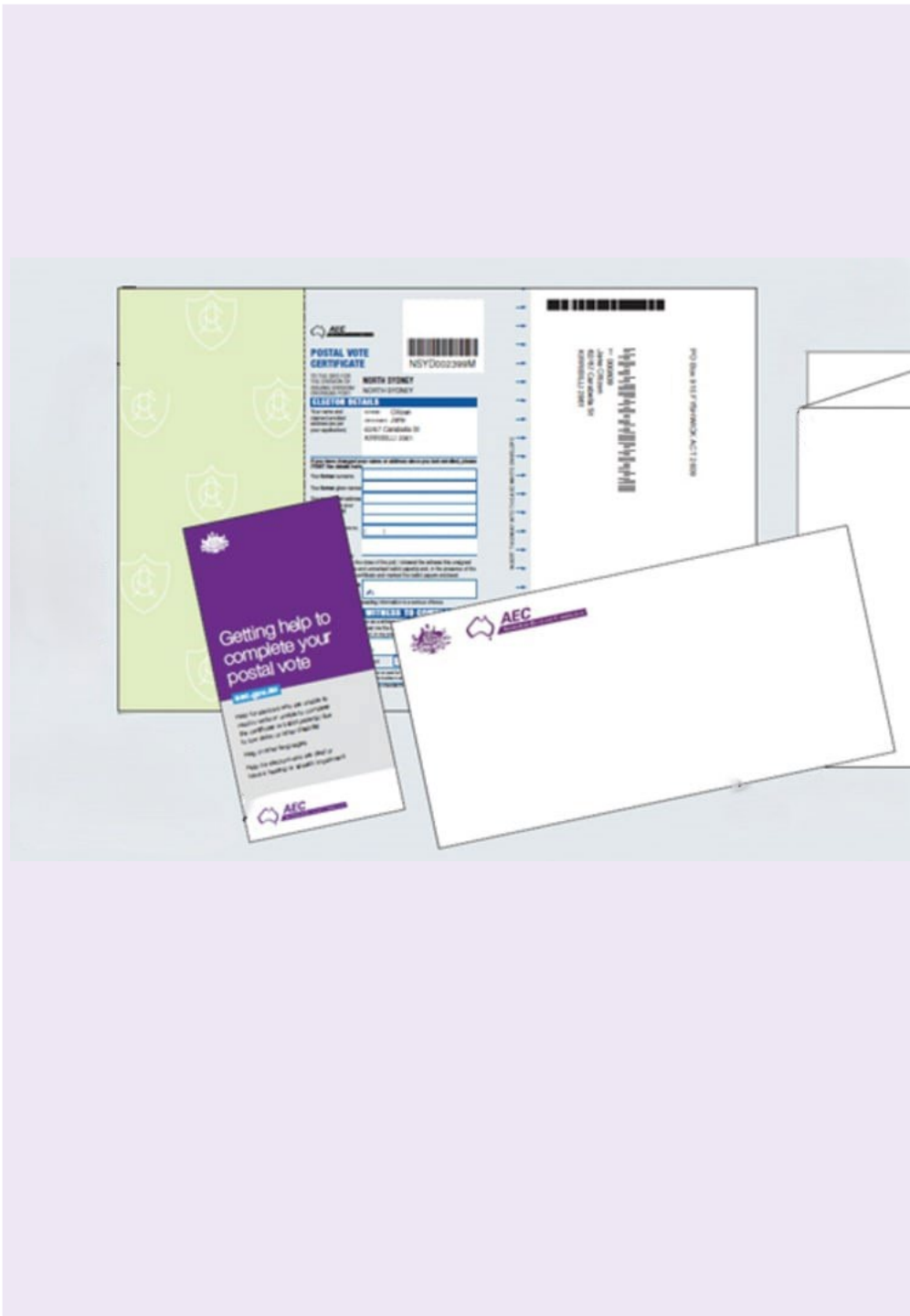
In case the AEC need to contact me with any questions I need to give them:

- 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.



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.


↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

You must **TEAR HERE** to remove your **BALLOT PAPER**

POSTAL VOTE CERTIFICATE

 **AEC**
Australian Electoral Commission

TO THE DRO FOR THE DIVISION OF:
LINGIARI


LING001006M

1 YOUR ENROLLED DETAILS

SURNAME: Lettuce
GIVEN NAMES: Green
SANTA TERESA NT

Answer your security question:
Q What was the make / model of your first car?
A

Remember: If your current address has changed from that shown above (as per your application) visit www.aec.gov.au and update your details. Your postal vote must be received by AEC by the 13th day after polling / voting day.

2 VOTER'S SIGNATURE

Elector declaration: I declare that, before close of poll, I showed the witness this unsigned Postal Vote Certificate and unmarked ballot paper(s) and, in the presence of the witness, I signed this certificate and marked the ballot papers enclosed in this Postal Vote Certificate.

Your signature (or mark)
MUST BE signed and dated by sign on polling / voting day

DATE SIGNED: / /

Daytime phone no.

Note: Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. Your personal information on this form is used for electoral purposes and may be provided to Commonwealth agencies and other bodies in accordance with Commonwealth law.

3 SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

Witness declaration: I sign as a witness and declare that, before close of poll, the elector showed me the unsigned Postal Vote Certificate and unmarked ballot paper(s) and, in my presence, signed the certificate.

Signature of witness (and date signed)
MUST BE signed and dated by sign on polling / voting day

DATE SIGNED: / /

Category of witness (e.g. elector)

A witness can be any elector who appears on the Commonwealth of Australia electoral roll, unless they are a candidate standing for election. For a list of those eligible, or if you can't find a witness, visit aec.gov.au/dva.

TEAR OFF your ballot paper along the dotted line **ABOVE**

COMPLETE this certificate and your ballot paper in front of your witness

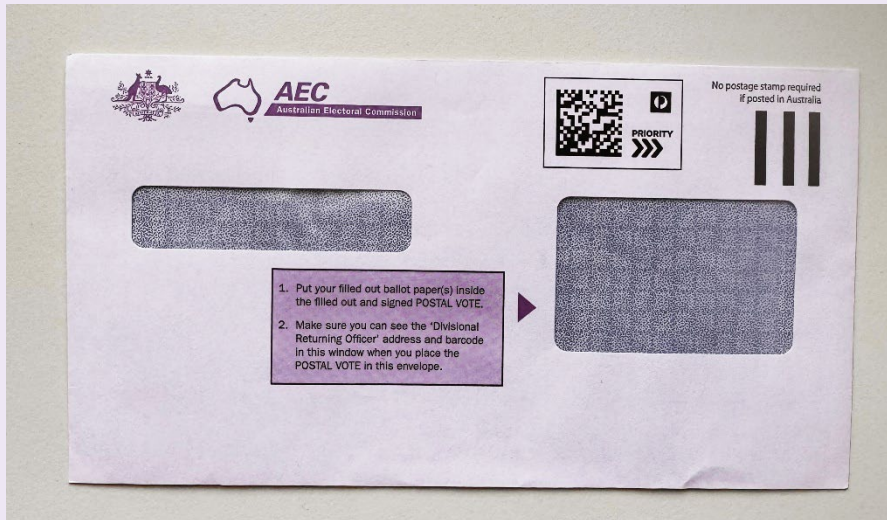
FOLD and PLACE your ballot paper **INSIDE** this certificate

Insert this folded edge first into the AEC Return envelope

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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.

House of Representatives
Ballot Paper

State
Electoral Division of Division Name

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

SURNAME, Given Names
INDEPENDENT

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

Remember... number every box to make your vote valid

SAMPLE



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)

Senate Ballot Paper

You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice with number 1 as your first choice.

Or

Below the line
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice with number 1 as your first choice.

UNGROUPED

SAMPLE





House of Representatives
Ballot Paper



State

Electoral Division of Division Name

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

SURNAME, Given Names
INDEPENDENT



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

Remember... number every box to make your vote count

SAMPLE

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.



House of Representatives
Ballot Paper



State

Electoral Division of Division Name

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

SURNAME, Given Names
INDEPENDENT



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

Remember... number every box to make your vote count

SAMPLE

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.

Senete Ballot Paper

You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	

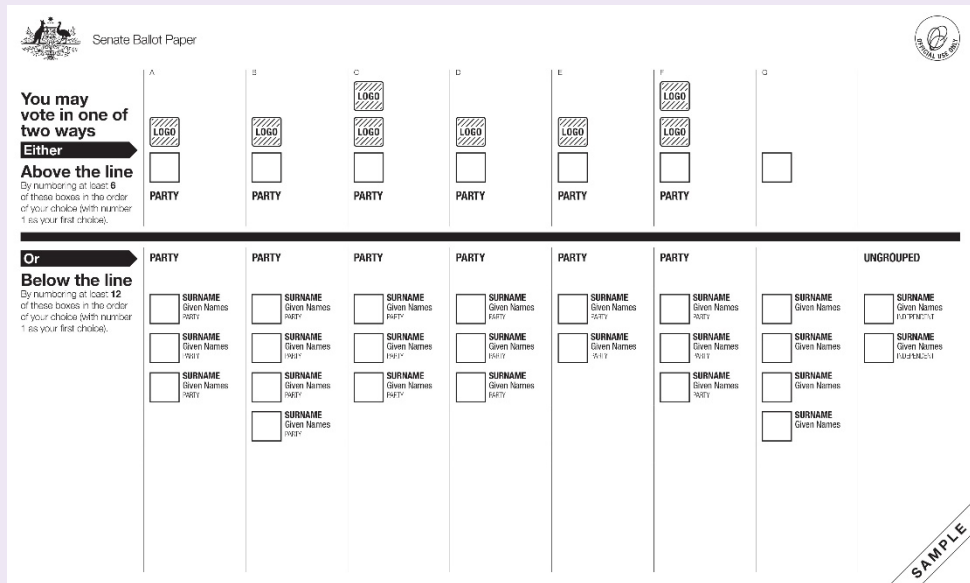
Or

Below the line
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111		<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19911	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names 19111

SAMPLE

The white ballot paper is for the Senate, and it has a list of all the candidates I can vote for.



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.

Senate Ballot Paper
State – Election of 6 Senators

You may vote in one of two ways
Either

Above the line
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY

Or

Below the line
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names (UNGROUPED)
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names (UNGROUPED)
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names (UNGROUPED)
	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY						<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names (UNGROUPED)

SAMPLE

Senate Ballot Paper
State – Election of 6 Senators

You may vote in one of two ways
Either

Above the line
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY

Or

Below the line
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names (UNGROUPED)
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names (UNGROUPED)
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names (UNGROUPED)
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names (UNGROUPED)
	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY						<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names (UNGROUPED)

SAMPLE

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.

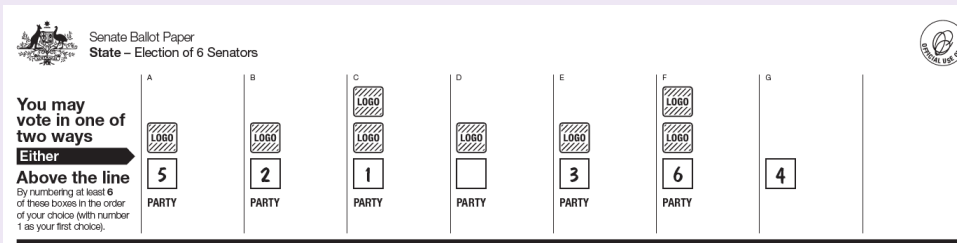
Or

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



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 **Below the line**
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	8 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	6 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	10 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	4 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT
1 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	3 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	9 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	7 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	2 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	12 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY		<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	
	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY					<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	

SAMPLE

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.

aec.gov.au 13 23 26

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra

