



# **Your official guide to the Cook by-election**

## **Part 1: Introduction**

Voting is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 years and older and enrolled in Cook. If you don't vote, you may be prosecuted. Voting more than once is a criminal offence.

This guide is only relevant to people who are enrolled to vote in the federal electoral division of Cook in New South Wales.

The Cook by-election will be held on Saturday 13 April 2024. Polling places open at 8am and close at 6pm sharp.

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 Cook in the House of Representatives. This by-election is being held following the resignation of the former Member for Cook.

## Who has to vote?

If you are enrolled in the federal electoral division of Cook you are required to vote in the by-election. If you are not sure whether you are enrolled in the division of Cook, check your enrolment information at [www.aec.gov.au/check](http://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 election day, you may be eligible to vote early.

## Voting early by post

To check if you are eligible to vote early by post, visit

[www.aec.gov.au/pva](http://www.aec.gov.au/pva)

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 AEST Wednesday 10 April 2024.**

## Voting early in person

To check if you are eligible to vote early in person visit

[www.aec.gov.au/cook/voting.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/cook/voting.htm)

If you are eligible, you can vote at an early voting centre (below) from Tuesday 2 April 2024 to Friday 12 April 2024.

Changes may occur to the information below. Visit <http://www.aec.gov.au/cook> to see the list of early voting centres and to check opening dates and hours.

## **CARINGBAH**

- St Phil's Anglican Church Hall

## **CRONULLA**

- Cronulla Central Community Centre

## **MIRANDA**

- Bellingara Netball Stadium

## **RAMSGATE**

- Ramsgate Scout Hall

For further information about early voting options and eligibility visit [www.aec.gov.au/cook](http://www.aec.gov.au/cook) or call **13 23 26**.

## **Telephone voting**

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

## 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/cook](http://www.aec.gov.au/cook)

You can use an AEC pencil, or you can bring your own pencil or pen.

## Part 3: What happens at the polling place?

When you reach the ballot paper issuing point, a polling official will ask for your full name and address, and whether you have voted before in the 2024 Cook 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.
- If you have used an AEC pencil, deposit it in the box on the way out.

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

**The AEC takes the safety of our voters and election workers seriously and implements appropriate hygiene measures. Please keep appropriate physical distancing and use the provided hand sanitiser. Information in this guide reflects circumstances at the time of publishing.**

## **Where can I vote on by-election day?**

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

Please note that polling place locations may have changed since you last voted. At the time of publishing this information, the locations of some polling places

were yet to be confirmed. Final locations are available at [aec.gov.au/cook](https://aec.gov.au/cook)

The final list of polling places, along with a list of candidates, will be published in the *St George & Sutherland Leader* on Wednesday 10 April 2024 and in *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* on Friday 12 April 2024.

For accessible voting options and information, visit [aec.gov.au/cook](https://aec.gov.au/cook) or call **13 23 26**.

## **BLAKEHURST**

- Bald Face Public School

## **BURRANEER**

- Burraneer Bay Public School
- Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College

## **CARINGBAH**

- Caringbah High School
- Caringbah Public School

- Laguna Street Public School
- St Phil's Anglican Church Hall

## **CARLTON**

- Carlton South Public School

## **CARSS PARK**

- Blakehurst Public School

## **CONNELLS POINT**

- Connells Point Public School

## **CRONULLA**

- Cronulla Public School
- Cronulla South Public School
- St Aloysius Catholic Primary School Cronulla

## **GREENHILLS BEACH**

- Cronulla High School

## **GYMEA**

- Gymea Anglican Church



- Gymea Community Centre
- Gymea North Public School

## **GYMEA BAY**

- Gymea Peoples Church

## **KOGARAH**

- St George School

## **KOGARAH BAY**

- Congregational Church Hall

## **KURNELL**

- Kurnell Public School

## **LILLI PILLI**

- Lilli Pilli Public School

## **MIRANDA**

- Miranda Community Centre
- Miranda North Public School
- Miranda Public School

- Port Hacking High School

## **MONTEREY**

- Brighton-Le-Sands Public School

## **RAMSGATE**

- Sans Souci Literary Institute

## **RAMSGATE BEACH**

- Ramsgate Public School

## **SANDRINGHAM**

- Sans Souci Community Pre-school

## **SANS SOUCI**

- Sans Souci Public School

## **SYLVANIA**

- Sylvania Anglican Church
- Sylvania Heights Public School
- Sylvania High School
- Sylvania Public School

## **TAREN POINT**

- Taren Point Public School

## **WOOLOOWARE**

- Woolooware High School
- Woolooware Public School

## **YOWIE BAY**

- Yowie Bay Public School

You can check the accessibility rating and details of polling places at [aec.gov.au/cook](https://aec.gov.au/cook)

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 you consider if what you see, hear or read is reliable, from a 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 [aec.gov.au/stopandconsider](https://www.aec.gov.au/stopandconsider)

## How to make your vote count

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

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

**On your ballot paper, 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](https://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, e-text, and large print from

[www.aec.gov.au/cook](http://www.aec.gov.au/cook)

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 Greek, Cantonese and Mandarin from [www.aec.gov.au/cook](http://www.aec.gov.au/cook)

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 Cook 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 Cook in New South Wales.

### **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/AEST from Tuesday 2 April 2024 to Friday 12 April 2024. Registration is also available on by-election Saturday 13 April 2024, from 8am to 12 midday AEST.

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

You will then receive an eight-digit 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 Tuesday 2 April 2024.

Voting will be available on weekdays between 8.30am and 5.30pm AEDT/AEST. Voting will also be available from 8am to 6pm AEST on by-election Saturday 13 April 2024.

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

When you call, do not give your name or any information that could identify you.

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 an envelope that is sealed and then deposited into a secure ballot box.

Remember, you have until 12 midday AEST on by-election Saturday 13 April 2024 to register, and until 6pm AEST to cast your vote.

## **Accessible information**

### **List of candidates**

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

You can listen to the list of candidates at [www.aec.gov.au/cook](http://www.aec.gov.au/cook) 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](http://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 Cook 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](http://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 Electoral Commissioner,  
10 Mort Street, Canberra ACT**