



2019 Federal Election

Fact Sheet 3: Voting information for people with disability

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) provides assistance for people with disability to ensure they are not disadvantaged from participating in the electoral system. The AEC can assist you to enrol, vote and help you find more information. It is compulsory for all eligible Australians to enrol and vote in federal elections and referendums.

In Australia we have a **federal election** about every 3 years. A federal election is for the whole country. It's how we choose Australia's government. This coming election will be on Saturday 18 May 2019. When you vote, you help to choose who is part of Australia's government.

You must vote if you are:

- an Australian **citizen**; and
- aged 18 years old or older.

A citizen is someone who is given the rights and freedoms of the country where they live. Voting lets you have your say about who runs our country. Don't worry if you haven't voted before. The AEC can explain what you need to do.

Accessible voting options

Polling place accessibility

A list of polling places is made available shortly after an election is announced. Each polling place is given an accessibility rating to assist people with disabilities or mobility restrictions. These ratings are:

- wheelchair accessible
- assisted wheelchair access, or
- not wheelchair accessible.

You can click on the rating listed against each polling place to find out more about its specific accessibility features.

Assistance to vote at a polling place

If you need assistance to vote at a polling place, you can ask someone to help you. Polling place staff are trained to assist you or you can nominate any person (other than a candidate) to assist. This could be a friend, relative or another person. If you do not nominate someone, then the polling official in charge may provide assistance.

If you cannot get out of the car and the polling official in charge is satisfied that you cannot enter the polling place, someone may bring the ballot papers to you.

Postal voting

A voter with a disability or mobility restrictions may be eligible to become a [general postal voter](#) and receive ballot papers in the mail.

To complete a postal vote, the voter may choose an assistant (such as a friend or family member) to help complete the ballot papers and envelope according to the voter's instruction, but the voter must sign the envelope or make a mark as a signature.

Mobile polling

The AEC provides mobile polling to some locations, including hospitals. These locations are available shortly after the election is announced.

Telephone voting

Voters who are blind or have low vision can cast a vote in secret from any location, including their own homes. More details are provided shortly after an election is announced.

AEC Resources to assist people with disability

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has developed a range of resources to support people with disability through the electoral process.

Easy Read Guides are available on the [AEC website](#) and include information on how to enrol and vote, how to vote at a polling place, and how to vote via mail.

A series of videos has been developed by the AEC. You can watch them via YouTube as below:

- [Dignified access to voting](#)
- [Voting in an election](#)
- [Participating in an election](#)