

## 2023 Referendum – Information sheet –

### Non-voter notices

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This information sheet provides an overview of the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) non-voter process. Please note this document only refers to federal events and does not apply to state or local electoral events.

#### Background

After each federal electoral event, the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* requires the AEC to send a letter (apparent failure to vote notice) to all voters who appear to have not voted in a federal electoral event.

For the 2023 referendum, the AEC will commence sending these notices in early January 2024.

#### I was unable to vote, what should I do?

You may contact the AEC on 13 23 26 and provide your local office with your reasons for being unable to vote. If you are unable to contact the AEC personally, someone else who has personal knowledge of your personal circumstances can contact the AEC on your behalf.

The Divisional Returning Officer (DRO) will then consider your reasons and determine if you had a valid and sufficient reason for not voting. If your reason is accepted and you contact the AEC before we send the notices, you will not receive a notice from the AEC.

Alternatively, you can also wait until you receive the notice and provide your response by phone or post.

#### Who will receive an apparent failure to vote notice?

These notices are sent to voters who appear to have not voted based on the AEC records for each electorate.

#### Where are the notices sent?

Notices are sent to a voter's enrolled address or to a postal address if it has been provided to the AEC.

#### What do I do if I receive an apparent failure to vote notice?

If you receive a notice, you have these options for responding:

##### If you did vote:

If you did vote, provide the details of where and how you voted in the blue box on the first page and post the notice back to the AEC using the reply-paid envelope provided. If you prefer, you can contact your local AEC office on 13 23 26 and provide this information over the phone.

If you did not vote:

If you did not vote, you have two options:

- **Option 1:** If you have a valid and sufficient reason for not voting:

Please provide as much detail of your circumstances as you are able to in the purple box (Option 1) on the first page of the notice and post the notice back to the AEC using the reply-paid envelope provided. If you prefer, you can contact your local AEC office on 13 23 26 and provide your reason for not voting, over the phone.

Once the divisional office receives your reason for not voting, the DRO will consider your reasons and determine if you had a valid and sufficient reason for not voting. If your reason is accepted, you will not receive any further correspondence from the AEC about not voting.

- **Option 2:** If you do not have a valid and sufficient reason for not voting:

If you did not vote, and do not have a valid and sufficient reason for not voting, you may pay a \$20 administrative penalty. Payment options are included in the notice.

### What if someone is no longer able to understand the voting process?

If a voter has been identified as someone who should be removed from the roll as they no longer able to understand the nature and significance of the voting process, the [Objection claim that an elector should not be enrolled](#) form must be completed. A medical practitioner will need to complete the medical certificate section. Further information is on the [AEC website](#).

**For any further information please contact your local AEC office on 13 23 26.**