

# Mobile Voting - Victorian State election 2018

## What is mobile voting?

Mobile voting is available to assist electors who are patients or residents in hospitals, care facilities and retirement villages, or who are homeless or in prison. These electors usually experience difficulty in attending a voting centre on election day.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has made arrangements for a mobile voting team to visit your facility so that electors can vote prior to election day.

## Who can vote at a mobile voting centre?

With your assistance, the VEC will have determined the class of electors that can vote at your facility. This will be one of the following:

- Clients and Staff
- Electors with a disability and/or carers;
- Inmates or inmates and staff;
- Patients and/or residents and carers;
- Patients and/or residents, staff and carers;
- Patients and/or residents, staff, carers and visitors.

## What will happen when the mobile voting team visits your facility?

When the mobile voting team arrives at your facility they will contact the administration to advise of their arrival. Your administration staff should be aware of the voting services that have been agreed to be provided on the day. You may have arranged for the mobile voting team to set up voting services (static voting) in an allocated area within the facility and /or may need the mobile voting team to visit electors in their own room. For residential facilities the team will need to work through a list of residents with one of your staff to understand who will be able to vote in a static voting area, who will need to be visited in person, and who will not be able to vote at the time of the team's visit. The mobile voting team must ensure that all eligible electors are given every opportunity to vote.

For mobile voting at prisons, the administration should establish the voting location and provide the necessary level of security for the voting team.

### ***Static voting***

If you have agreed that the mobile voting team will conduct voting from an allocated area within your facility, a member of your staff will be required to take the team to this location.

A table and chairs should be made available, as well as additional tables and chairs so that voting screens can be set up for electors. If possible, the team will need access to a power source to run a small netbook computer containing a copy of the electoral roll. The netbook can run on battery but only for a short time. The mobile voting team will set up the area for voting.

It will be your responsibility to ensure that all electors who wish to vote are made aware that the mobile voting team is in attendance.

### ***Electors unable to attend the voting area on the day***

If an elector is unable to attend the static voting area, the mobile team can go to the person's room/ward, so that they may vote. Staff from your facility must accompany the team while they are attending voters in the room/ward, or provide clear directions regarding which rooms/wards are to be visited and which are not.

## ***Patients unable to vote***

If an elector is unable to vote due to ill health when the mobile voting team visits your facility, the elector's details will be recorded so they will not be fined. You may call your Election Manager to request that a team returns at a later date to enable any electors to vote who were unable to do so at the time of the first visit.

## **What will happen when the elector votes?**

Before issuing ballot papers, the mobile voting team member will:

- ask the elector their name and address;
- look their details up on the roll, (usually on a netbook computer, but may be a hard copy document);
- confirm their electoral District and Region;
- mark their name on the roll to indicate that they have voted; and
- issue them with two ballot papers for them to complete - one for their Legislative Assembly (Lower House) District and one for their Legislative Council (Upper House) Region.

If the elector is on the State roll, their vote may be placed directly in the ballot box. If their name cannot be found on the State roll they may need to complete an envelope to vote. Where this is the case, the voting team will need you to verify the elector's identity.

The voting team will carry folders containing copies of registered how-to-vote cards that electors may refer to if required.

## ***Voter Secrecy***

The mobile voting team will make every effort to make sure that votes are cast in secret. They understand that some electors may need help to complete their vote. Electors should feel free to ask for assistance if this is the case.

## ***Scrutineers***

Candidates may appoint scrutineers to accompany the mobile team during voting at your facility. Scrutineers are not permitted to display election material or distribute how-to-vote cards while accompanying the mobile voting team. Scrutineers are permitted by law to observe voting but they must not discuss any political issues with electors. The team will ensure that any scrutineers are properly managed.

## **What should you do before the mobile voting team visit your facility?**

Your local Election Manager will have made arrangements with you by phone regarding the date and time for the mobile voting team to visit. At this time, they will also provide a contact number for you in case you have any questions before the team arrives.

Before the team attends your facility, it will be helpful if you have considered those electors who will be able to attend a static voting area in your facility, and if applicable those whom the team may need to visit in person. The team will want to discuss this with you when they arrive.

All electors should be made aware of the arrangements and where voting will take place.