

INFORMATION ON MOBILE POLLING

Several people are involved when a mobile polling service is provided in a residential aged care facility, residential mental health care facility, specialist homelessness service, custodial correctional facility or other facility.

1. Divisional Returning Officer (DRO)

The DRO is responsible for the appointment of the mobile polling team. The DRO makes detailed arrangements with each establishment to be visited and liaises with the appropriate management to ensure that the establishments can provide adequate voting facilities.

2. Mobile Polling Team

The mobile polling team generally consists of two people, the team leader and a team member. The mobile polling team is responsible for issuing ballot papers to voters, assisting voters as required and ensuring that voters place completed ballot papers in the ballot box. The team ensures that the ballot box is always guarded, that secrecy provisions are enforced and that the published timetable of their itinerary is maintained.

The mobile polling team must respect the special needs of voters and the routines of the establishments visited.

3. Candidates

Candidates are not allowed to take part in any way in the conduct of an election. They cannot be scrutineers and they cannot enter a polling area except to record their own vote.

4. Campaign workers

Campaign workers may not enter the polling area, unless they are nominated as an assistant by a voter who needs help completing their ballot paper.

5. Scrutineers

One scrutineer per candidate may be appointed by a candidate to accompany the mobile polling team. At a referendum one scrutineer per establishment may be appointed by the Governor General, the Governor of a State, the Chief Minister of the ACT, the Administrator of the Northern Territory (or a person appointed by any of these) or the registered officer of a registered political party.

As a rule, scrutineers may observe all voting procedures except the elector actually voting. Scrutineers may be nominated by a disabled or non-literate voter to help with the completion of a ballot paper.

Scrutineers may not interfere with, or attempt to influence, any voter or disclose any knowledge gained concerning the vote of any person.