

VOTING IN THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL ELECTION

You may already know Australians go to the polls on Saturday 9 October. If you're eligible to vote and living or travelling overseas the best policy is to make arrangements to vote now.

Go to the AEC website at

<http://www.aec.gov.au/election2004/overseas/index.htm> and you'll be able to locate the closest Australian mission to get further advice and find out where voting services are offered. Contact them to decide whether to arrange for a postal vote or to vote in person.

Postal vote applications can be printed from the AEC website and ballot papers sent to your overseas address. If planning to vote this way you must act immediately to ensure there is sufficient time as your completed ballot papers must be back in the mail or delivered back to a mission before the equivalent of 6pm 9 October 2004, Western Australian time.

Different time-zones mean 9 October in the UK and Europe is too late to vote – getting it all done before 8 October is highly recommended so your opportunity to vote is not lost. Your nearest diplomatic mission offering voting services will be able to advise local times for voting in person and the cut-off date for applying locally for a postal vote.

29 September 2004