



AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGE LAW POSTAL SURVEY INFORMATION FOR AUSTRALIANS OVERSEAS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is surveying Australians on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll who are eligible to vote as at 24 August 2017, to get their views about whether the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

This is a voluntary survey. However the ABS would like every eligible Australian to have an opportunity to participate and have their say. While it is expected that most people in Australia will be able to participate using the postal service, the ABS will implement a number of additional strategies for people who may not be able to complete a postal survey.

Paper forms will not be posted overseas for this survey.

Options for survey participation for eligible Australians overseas

1. Completing the form before or after travel

Australians who are temporarily overseas may be able to complete their survey form before they leave or after they return. Survey forms will be delivered to Australian nominated addresses by 25 September. Completed forms need to be received by the ABS by the 7 November deadline, allowing a reasonable period for completing and posting back the paper form.

2. Authorising a trusted person to respond on their behalf

If a person cannot complete their survey due to being overseas, they may authorise a trusted person in Australia to complete the survey form on their behalf.

The ABS expects that the eligible individual wishing to complete the survey via a trusted person in Australia will:

- Make the necessary arrangements for the trusted person to access their mail;
- Specifically authorise that trusted person to open their postal survey envelope; and
- Communicate their survey response to that trusted person so this can be accurately marked on the survey form.

The trusted person would then seal the form in the reply paid envelope and post it back to the ABS via Australia Post.

A person cannot declare themselves to be a trusted person for someone else. It is illegal to open someone else's mail without their permission, and there are potential penalties for providing false or misleading information to the ABS.

3. Paperless response

Australians who will be overseas throughout the collection period can respond to the survey online or by phone from 25 September.

From 25 September to 20 October, Australians overseas will be able to obtain a secure access code via the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey online enquiry form on the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au) or by calling the Information Line - +61 2 6252 5262. A letter including the secure access code will be sent to the person, which is then used to provide an anonymous survey response through an automated telephony service, a secure online form or via a call centre.

More Information

All responses to the survey are kept completely confidential, by law. The ABS will destroy all information collected after the survey.

The results of the survey will be published on the ABS website by 15 November.

For more information on the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey visit the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au) or contact the Information Line on 1800 572 113, available 7 days a week, 8am - 8pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time). If outside of Australia, please call +61 2 6252 5262.