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 @NTElecComm

1. Remote voting

Prohibition of canvassing within 100 metres

During the first day of remote voting, a number of complaints have been received alleging that some campaign workers are not complying with the prohibition of canvassing within 100 metres of remote voting centres.

Please ensure that campaign workers do not canvas for votes within 100 metres of the entrance to a building, shop front and/or area designated as a voting centre. This includes personal canvassing by candidates or party workers, whether or not they are handing out how-to-vote cards.

Maps showing the 100 metre boundaries can be found at ntec.nt.gov.au.

The prohibition of canvassing within 100 metres of a voting centre includes:

- placement, display or handing out of posters
- pamphlets or bunting that contains electoral matter
- handing out how-to-vote cards
- soliciting the vote of a person
- inducing a person not to vote for a particular candidate
- inducing a person not to vote at the election
- using a loud speaker, public address system, amplifier or other thing to broadcast matter that is audible within 100 metres of the entrance of the voting centre.

A direction has been given to remote voting staff to remove all campaign material within the 100 metre boundary ten minutes before the commencement of voting.

Scrutineers

Complaints have also been received alleging that some scrutineers are not complying with the requirements as stated in the candidate handbook, i.e. whilst in a voting centre a scrutineer must not:

- Touch the ballot papers
- Interfere with, or attempt to influence the vote of any voter in the voting centre
- Wear or show campaign emblems, t-shirts, or similar, inside the voting centre
- Show, hand out or leave how-to-vote material in the voting centre
- Go near the voting screens except to watch while a voter is being helped to mark his/her ballot paper
- Communicate with any person in a voting centre other than in the exercise of their functions as a scrutineer
- Help with the clearing of voting screens or removal of material from the voting centre
- Reveal anything they know about how a voter voted

Please ensure that campaign workers and scrutineers adhere to these requirements and possess a [scrutineer appointment form](#).



2. Remote voting changes

Katherine hostel

Management of the Katherine hostel (formerly Red Cross Aged Care) have advised that all residents have applied for a postal vote and therefore the facility does not need to be visited by mobile voting teams. The hostel has therefore been removed from the urban institutions schedule.

3. Campaign advertising – optional preferential voting system

With the change to the optional preferential voting system, it is important campaign advertising is consistent with the [NT Electoral Act](#) and the NTEC's voter information campaign.

For example: You must place the number '1' in the square next to your preferred candidate and then may choose whether to mark further preferences.

Campaign advertising regarding preferences should not infer that a voter is required to number every box in order to cast a formal vote. Any instance of this occurring is likely to be a breach of section 270(3) of the *NT Electoral Act* which states that a person must not publish or distribute any campaign material that:

- (a) is likely to:
 - (i) mislead an elector; or
 - (ii) deceive an elector; or
 - (iii) improperly interfere with an elector casting a vote; or
- (b) contains an untrue or incorrect statement.

The maximum penalty for breaching section 270 is 100 penalty units.

4. Early voting

The following table shows the number of early votes taken on Tuesday 16 August and a cumulative total.

Early Voting Centre	16 August	Total votes to date
Alice Springs	351	735
Casuarina	552	1141
Coolalinga	251	500
Darwin	395	764
Katherine	266	537
Nhulunbuy	39	39
Palmerston	497	991
Total Votes	2351	4707

Early voting at Tennant Creek commences on Friday 19 August at the Civic Hall on Peko Road.