



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Preferences are VOTERS to give

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor would like to draw to the attention of people voting in the Federal election this Saturday the fact that when they vote, preferences are theirs to allocate not the candidate for whom they vote at number one.

“I have had a number of calls from constituents with concerns about how the preferential voting system works.

My response has been to explain that if they wish to vote for me, they put a ‘1’ in the box next to my name on the ballot paper and then number the other candidate’s boxes from 2-7 as they themselves choose.

The important thing for people to remember is that preferences are their’s to give.

Preferences do not belong to any of the candidates to allocate – it’s up to each voter to decide where they want their voting preferences to go.

Voters don’t have to follow any candidate’s How to Vote card but they do have to put a number between 1 and 7 in each box,” Mr Windsor said.