

From: Haille Smith
To: [Committee, EM \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: RE: 2016 election Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 13 October 2016 8:47:11 PM

I wish to make the following submissions to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, with respect to the 2016 Federal election:

1. While the digital recording of electors has obvious statistical and administrative advantages, there is a potentially serious flaw in the use of the procedure.

When a voter attends the polling station to vote, his/her details are accessed digitally by a clerk by means of a laptop computer. In the course of that process the screen of the laptop is at all times facing the operator and completely out of the view of the elector. The elector therefore has no knowledge of or access to what is actually being entered into the laptop by the operator. In these circumstances there is clearly an opportunity for error or even fraud.

This problem would be rectified if the elector is given the opportunity of confirming the processing, by being able to inspect the laptop screen. I submit that the practice of using laptop computers needs to be made completely transparent; the elector should be able to confirm that his or her name has been correctly recorded.

2. The method of identifying voters at polling stations is at best perfunctory, and in many cases virtually non-existent. All electors presenting to vote should be obliged to produce some reasonable evidence of identity.

I ask that these matters be considered by the Committee.

Haille Smith