

Laura Phillips



25 August 2022

Submission to the Inquiry into the 2022 federal election

Dear Chair,

I am making a submission under the Terms of Reference section (f)ii regarding voting rights of Australians abroad.

I received confirmation via email from the AEC on 21 April 2022 that I was a registered overseas voter and that my ballot would be sent in the mail.

I received confirmation via email from the AEC on 25 April 2022 that my postal vote pack was in the mail.

From the information on the AEC website, it was my understanding that tracking the ballot in the post was not possible and no other remote voting option was available to overseas voters.

When my ballot had not arrived at my address in Geneva, Switzerland by 17 May 2022, I contacted the AEC via Twitter as to what my alternative options were to be able to vote. The AEC's response (below) was deeply disappointing. I did not wish to use a 'valid reason for not voting', I wanted to exercise my right to vote.

If there was clear communication that overseas postal voting was not going to be an option, I would have made arrangements to vote in person at the closest in-person voting station in Paris.

Instead, I waited in vain and was deeply disappointed to find no ballot in my mailbox when I checked every day in the lead up to the election. As of 25 August 2022, my ballot has yet to arrive in the post.

Due to the AEC's inability to ensure the ballot was delivered, the lack of communication as to the realistic chances it would be delivered and the lack of alternative remote voting options, I was deprived of my right to vote and participate in the federal election.

Kind regards

Laura Phillips



Tweet

Open app



Laura Phillips [redacted] · May 17 · ...

Hey @AusElectoralCom 🙋 I received email confirmation that my overseas postal vote was en route on 25 April, but it has still not arrived to my address in 🇨🇭. Is there a solution aside from travelling to the closest in-person service in Paris? #ausvotes #auspol



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AEC
@AusElectoralCom

...

Replying to [redacted]

Hi Laura, once the application has been processed and sent by the postal system, there is really not a lot the AEC can do from there - except provide a tracking system. Overseas in-person voting is always a viable option. Being overseas is a valid reason for not voting.

12:31 AM · May 18, 2022 · Brandwatch