

Lelene & John SCHWERDT

Friday, 16 August 2019

Senator James McGrath
Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
PO Box 772
Nambour, QLD, 4560

Dear Senator McGrath,

I note in the Adelaide Advertiser on 10th August that you are receiving submissions on Pre-Poll booths.

Over the years I have worked on most jobs in and at Polling Booths, from handing out how to vote cards to Presiding Officer and assistant Returning Officer.

It is always a circus! Many people are angry, don't want to be there, etc. etc.

The pre-poll booths are a joke! It is supposed to be for people who can't get to a polling booth on polling day. People just came and voted at pre-polls to "get it over and done with", and we know the result- the numbers at the polling days were down dramatically.

There has got to be a better way.

May I suggest that you try all postal voting. We saw the larger than expected numbers that voted this way in the Same Sex Marriage plebiscite. It worked then.

The only **disadvantage** I see is that some one could coerce another person to vote in a particular way. This would be minimal and could be reduced with the threat of a large fine.

On the **advantage** side, I see many-

1. The cost would be greatly reduced. No pre-poll or polling booths.
2. People would be able to quietly carefully consider their vote in the privacy of their own home.
3. No more "how to vote cards".
4. No more angry people being forced to attend a pre-poll or polling booth.
5. It would take the "hype" out of the whole electoral process.

6. If "compulsory" , or rather compulsory "get ones name crossed off" the electoral register is maintained, the votes could just be returned, marked off and no fine would occur.
7. It would eliminate multiple voting. I have hear of one guy that voted 32 times. That is an extreme, but I hear reports of others doing this. Postal voting would fix that easily.

There are probably other reasons you can think of. I think it is worth a try.

Sincerely,

John Schwerdt.