

Justin Miller

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Submission: Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Lowering Voting Age and Increasing Voter Participation) Bill 2018

Dear Electoral Matters Committee,

I, a 21 year old citizen and voter in Australia, believe that the voting age should be lowered to 16. I have seen arguments against this decision claim that due to being under 18, potential voters would not have any idea about politics, global or local matters, and other things that could impact their decision. My counter argument to this is that as they are voting and not legislating, such knowledge isn't a requirement. Nor is it readily apparent that voters OVER the age of 18 are educated in such ways.

At the age of 16 in Australia, you can;

- Acquire a learner driver permit and drive on Australian roads.
- Participate in consensual sex
- Be provided with Youth Allowance
- Have your own medicare card
- Work full time (and be subjected to income tax)

Enough goes on in Australia every year that would, because of these allowances at 16, impact these youth and thus mean they have a vested interest in being able to have their say in the way this country is run. To be at the mercy of the rest of the country when you are on the cusp of adulthood would leave many feeling helpless.

It is my belief that 16-year-old citizens SHOULD be able to vote, however, I think that it should not be compulsory until they turn 18. Thus, they have the choice and ability to vote, but are not legally obligated to.

I thank you for your time and being open to submissions, the power of being able to have my say is one I wish to share with the future adults of Australia.

Regards,

Justin