

Jordan Grant

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To the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the proposal to move to fixed 4 year parliamentary terms for the federal parliament. 4 year terms are already the standard for all states and territories, so this change would bring the federal parliament in line with these jurisdictions. It is my personal view that the current 3 year term is too short, and effectively means governments can only really govern for approximately 2 years before they are forced to start thinking about the next election. We desperately need some longer term thinking and broad reform to help prepare our society for the future, and a move to a 4 year term will help achieve these ends.

I am aware that a constitutional change (and hence a referendum) would be required to amend the senate term to 8 years (should we wish to retain the current practice of conducting half-senate elections at every house of representatives election – which I do) but a referendum should be possible given leadership and support of the major parties.

Regards,

Jordan Grant