

to the committee,

The electoral system. How very narrow. Civic participation does not end at the ballot box.

Why don't some multicultural communities seem to participate in civics? Fear of falling foul of war on terror era anti-terrorism laws that can be perceived to authorize the persecution of ethnic minorities or members of ethnic minorities politically participating.

informal mechanism through which Australians seek and receive information about Australia's democracy:

I'm going to take the number of submissions and divide it by the AEC electoral enrollments. In 2023 that sat at 17,721,975. If it's less than 1772 published submissions to this inquiry then the democracy score card would read that less than 0.01% of the population fully participates in the political process.

Now consider that would be substantially less than the number of professionals actively studying at a graduate level, teaching and qualified to work in the field within Australia. This should prompt consideration of the performance of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency in regards to their accreditation standards for courses that lead to such a dearth of passion for the subject. The Ministry for Indoctrination monetizes political and intellectual apathy for sale. A mature and adult demeanor is taught as memorizing canned responses instead of considered informed discussions. By design, the federal government has designed the no-think anti-intellectual politically apathetic citizen.

The corporate content policies, law enforcement and regulatory framework for cyber safety grants influence over content available online and through social media. Australia is a high-trust society that carries with it vulnerability to agents of foreign interference and political actors. People tend to perceive content as defacto state authorized and legitimate while unauthorized content is expected to be inaccessible. Sometimes in practice it goes full circle and the public service promotes and publishes misinformation, disinformation and extremist material as a part of their law enforcement strategies that tends to score an own-goal and the political actors that exploit such messaging by co-opting it for a wider audience and electoral ends.

Robert Heron

