

Committee Secretary, Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
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Your current Inquiry has TERMS OF REFERENCE that the Committee inquire into and report on the conduct of the 2019 Federal Election and matters related thereto.

A vital “matter related to” the conduct of elections is that of Vote Fraud.

I attended a meeting on 4 July 2018 in Sydney with four expert guest speakers:

- Retired Senator Nick Minchin, who was Special Minister of State years ago
- Peter King, ex-MP for Wentworth (2001-2004)
- Ross Cameron, ex-MP for Parramatta (1996-2004)
- Lex Stewart, for years President of Australians for Honest Elections

They all agreed that Vote Frauds are a huge problem that has been “swept under the carpet” by the AEC, and that it has been unfortunately downplayed for years by the JSCEM, despite the personal appearance of Dr Amy McGrath OAM of the H S Chapman Society in front of the committee on 13 March 2014, and despite her 17 Submissions over many years (she is now too old circa 98 to write another Submission).

Mr Stewart, an expert Psephologist and friend of Malcolm MacKerras, as part of his speech handed out a list of examples of Vote Frauds and I attach that list below as Appendix 1. Nick Minchin agreed with this list, regretting that he, when he was Minister of State previously, had had little understanding compared to what he now knows.

The JSCEM convened to look at the 2016 election issued its final report on 5 December 2018 (dated November ISBN 978-1-74366-742-2). That report recognised some of the problems of Vote Frauds, and made Recommendations 12 and 25, which I now request be included as recommendations in the report of this current Inquiry:

Recommendation 12

- 3.141 The Committee recommends that the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* be amended to require that:
- voters must present a form of acceptable identification to be issued with an ordinary pre-poll or election day vote.** Authorised identification must be suitably broad so as to not actively prevent electors from casting an ordinary ballot. Examples of acceptable identification would include:
- photographic ID such as a drivers licence, passport, or proof of age card;
 - government-issued identification card, such as a Medicare card, senior’s card or concession card; etc

Recommendation 25

- 5.56 The Committee recommends that a national rollout of **Electronic Certified Lists** and/or ‘ECL Lite’ be fully funded and implemented prior to the 2019 federal election ...

Yours sincerely


James R G Bell, 


Appendix 1 – List handed out by Mr Lex Stewart on 4 July 2018

This list includes cases where Vote Frauds or ‘irregularities’ were proven to have occurred, but may, or may not, have been of sufficient magnitude to cause loss of the seat

1. Joan Chambers lost Ballarat South in 1988 by 104 votes
2. Bribe Island 1989 (Bob Bottom found underwater enrolments)
3. Alasdair Webster lost Macquarie in 1993 by 164 votes
4. 1993 Frank Tanti lost Mundingburra by 16 votes, won by-election
5. Larry Anthony lost Richmond in 2004 by 301 votes
6. Multiple voting in 2005 Werriwa by-election (a safe seat)
7. Wollondilly in March 2007 NSW election (several Stat Decs)
8. 200 Reps ballot papers vanished in 1 booth in Bennelong in 2007
9. BK photographed suspicious man who voted 3x in Coogee ~2007
10. VB found 500 false enrolments in Kingsford Smith early 2013
11. BK, VB, PB found false enrolments in P’matta, perhaps 5,000
12. S Mirabella lost Indi in 2013 by 500 (1,000 ballots appeared)
13. 1,370 ballot papers vanished in the WA senate election
14. Charles Casuscelli narrowly lost Strathfield in 2015 NSW
15. Chris Holstein narrowly lost Gosford in 2015 NSW
16. Louise Markus narrowly lost Macquarie in 2016