



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS
INQUIRY INTO THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE *PARLIAMENTARY*
ELECTORATES AND ELECTIONS AMENDMENT (AUTOMATIC ENROLMENT)
ACT 2009 (NSW) FOR THE CONDUCT OF COMMONWEALTH ELECTIONS

Chair: Mr Daryl Melham MP

Electoral Matters Committee reports on implications of NSW Automatic Enrolment legislation for Commonwealth elections

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters today tabled its report *Inquiry into the implications of the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Amendment (Automatic Enrolment) Act 2009 (NSW) for the conduct of Commonwealth elections.*

The report makes 3 recommendations, including that the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* be amended:

- to allow the Australian Electoral Commission to automatically enrol electors on the basis of data provided by trusted agencies; and
- to allow for electors to enrol on Election Day and to issue a provisional vote, subject to the elector being able to produce suitable identification.

The NSW Automatic Enrolment legislation gives effect to a 'Smart Roll' system which operates around the notion that there are alternative ways for electors to be enrolled and to notify a change in their enrolment details, particularly where such information has already been provided to other government agencies.

The legislation also allows for enrolment for provisional voting on the day of polling, subject to adequate identification being produced. The Committee has recommended that Commonwealth legislation be similarly amended to assist the Australian Electoral Commission in its ongoing challenge to address declining electoral participation.

Committee Chair Daryl Melham (Member for Banks) said today "Declining electoral enrolment continues to present a significant challenge."

"Existing paper-based enrolment requirements under Commonwealth legislation are a deterrent to the current generation of Australians who are accustomed to conducting business with government agencies through electronic transactions."

"The introduction of flexible approaches which modernise electoral enrolment processes is a vital component for addressing the challenge of declining enrolment."

An electronic version of the report can be obtained from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/autobill2009/report.htm>.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Daryl Melham on (02) 6277 2054 (Parliament House).

Further information: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2374, email jscem@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em/>.