

From: Sylvia Petter

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2010 Federal Election.

I am an Australian citizen living in Austria. Until she passed away in 2009 I had my mother in Sydney. My daughter is Australian and lives in Sydney. I visit regularly. I am married to an Austrian, but I do not hold dual nationality and I do not intend to give up my Australian nationality.

I did my Phd by research at UNSW and graduated in 2009. I no longer own property or bank accounts in Australia. I do not pay tax in Australia.

I have been living outside Australia since 1969. From 1973 to 2006 I was an international civil servant in Geneva. I am now retired and live in Vienna.

I am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll. I was until 2007 but have been dropped since.

My experiences with the Australian federal electoral system while offshore are as follows: Easy to vote at the Australian Consulate until I left Geneva. Voted at the Australian Embassy in Vienna in 2007. Since then cannot vote.

I was for over 25 years a professional staff member in a UN organisation, assistant to 2 Secretaries General at ITU and part of the Australian geographically distributed contingent.

I think the only reason I was still able to vote in 2007 was because there was such a mess with the technicalities of the expat vote.