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Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 74
Date Received 1/7/02
Secretary [Signature]

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Inquiry into the conduct of the 2001 Federal
Elections

Purpose of my submission

Between elections should there be a record kept which members of the public have searched the rolls - what was the reason for the search and the use made of the information obtained from the search

I have some concern covering Part VI of the Commonwealth Electoral Act in so far as it would appear that those who access the Electoral Rolls for permitted purposes are not being monitored. On my enquires at the Melbourne Office of the Electoral Office it would appear staff are not aware of the permitted purposes plus it may be followed that those who access the rolls are not aware of restrictions. As an example the roll may be a great medium for debt collectors to trace delinquent debts.

I suggest the following:-

1. that all electoral offices exhibit notices which state the restrictions on use of information contained in the rolls

2. Those given access sign and complete a request containing the following information.

- 1 Date of access
- 2 named person accessing the rolls
- 3 address - - - - -
- 4 telephone number - - - - -
- 5 Reason why access is required and use to be made thereof.
- 6 Time of arrival
- 7 Time of departure
- 8 signature

Incidentally if the above is implemented reasons for access and by whom will be available to the Electoral Commission and action can be taken if there is a breach of a permitted use.

It is my view that information on the rolls to some extent is private and confidential and the public is entitled to be assured that the access provisions of the Act are being complied with.

Yours faithfully
Trevor M Jacobs
TREVOR M JACOBS