

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. <u>15</u>
Date Received <u>1.3.05</u>
Secretary <u>[Signature]</u>



MRS. A. BAILEY  
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*The Secretary*  
 Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
 Department of House of Representatives  
 Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. ACT 2600

As a mature voter I have come to realise that the Senate Voting Paper has become so large that it has become ridiculous, and I'm sure this is patently obvious to everyone taking a real interest in the regular Federal elections. The election in October 2004 was the first time I cast a vote in N.S.W, my previous residency having been in Victoria. But I was astonished at the size of the paper presented to me when I registered my name on election day. It contained seventy-one candidates.

Since I was not voting for any particular political Party, when I would have been allowed to put a number in a square above the line to cast a valid vote, I was obliged to fill in every square below the line. I was careful in doing this, nevertheless when I reached the end I found I had come to No. 72, so was obliged to repeat the exercise to correct my original error. This of course took extra time and meant it took me twice as long to complete my Senate voting form, holding up even further the long queue waiting to vote.

Since under the present system there is no likelihood of the Senate list of accepted candidates becoming shorter, and probably increasing in size, I feel there should be a simpler method of counting, and I have based my Submission on this.

I must, however, state that I believe it is the right of every citizen to stand for Parliament providing they are eligible to do so, the increasing numbers of those applying and paying the prescribed deposit is becoming ludicrous. It is obvious that a great number of candidates have the proverbial snowball's chance in hell of receiving enough votes to get the initial quota.

However I also feel, in spite of their success being so slight, they are still entitled to be accepted and have their names shown on the Senate electoral voting paper.

Bearing all the above in mind, I have now determined the wording of my Submission, and attach it to this summary.

*Anne T. Bailey*  
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 (Mrs.) Anne T. Bailey

SUBMISSION relating to the 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION

1. When an elector chooses to vote BELOW THE LINE for the Senate Candidates there should only need to be TWENTY squares allotted a number, thus eliminating the current necessity of numbering every square.
2. As Senate voting forms are increasing in size at every election, they are becoming more and more difficult to be completed in a reasonable time, so by reducing the number of required numbers it can lessen the time spent in the voting stall, and simplify the voting process at the same time.
3. No candidate will be disadvantaged, as the elector has the opportunity of voting for any candidate, or group of candidates, they wish without spending an inordinate amount of time placing squares against those of no interest to them.
4. I am flexible on nominating TWENTY as the number of squares requiring a number, as I am not experienced at the numbers required to obtain an initial quota. Perhaps less than twenty numbered squares, fifteen or even twelve, might be sufficient. I am sure those with greater experience of the counting of votes could provide a fair but realistic number.
5. I hope this Submission can help simplify the method of voting for the future Senate elections.

(Signed)

*Anne T. Bailey*  
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