

Supplementary Submission to the Standing Committee on Electoral Matters.
Submission by Christopher Alger.
Supplement to Submission 14.

In my original submission I have asserted that provisions in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights are breached in several areas in connection with my experience of the implementation / enforcement of the federal compulsory voting legislation by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

It was also asserted in my original submission that articles in the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights are breached by the compulsory voting law(s) and or the AEC enforcement of those law(s) at least as far as my experience is concerned. I have previously mentioned articles 17 and 26 of the covenant as having been breached, where article 17 protects against arbitrary interference to privacy and article 26 relates to protection against discrimination.

I wish now to specifically mention other article(s) in the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights that have been breached in the enforcement of the compulsory voting legislation in my case.

Article 18, in particular articles 18.2 and 18.3 as follows:

1. ' Article 18

1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.
2. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.
3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.
4. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions. '

It is clear that the various provisions in the above articles (18.1 through 18.4 inclusive) of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights makes **equal** religious belief with non religious belief. And that the law shall not discriminate unless it is to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others (18.3).

I hereby assert again my having been fined for not voting in the 2010 Federal Election is the result of wrongful discrimination on religious grounds. Where I gave to the returning officer a written reason for not voting based on my personal private beliefs instead of claiming particular religious beliefs in my written reasons for apparent failure to vote.

2. ' Article 17

1. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks. '

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION 14.1

I hereby assert again that the official request (from the AEC) for a written reason for my apparent failure to vote represents an **arbitrary interference** to my right to privacy due to the personal nature of my actual reason for not having voted which is based on earnest personal beliefs formed over a lifetime of experience. Please see article 17 above.

I have the view that if a parliament maintains poor quality legislation it reflects poorly on the quality of the parliament itself, and limits its relevance.

Bibliography:

1 and **2**: directly from the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights.
Accessed here: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm> on the 4th March 2011.

Yours truly,

Christopher Alger