

From: Craig Thorburn

Message:

To: The Inquiry Secretary, Ms Samantha Mannette, JSCEM

Dear Ms Mannette,

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

I am an Australian citizen living in the United States of America. I have been living outside Australia since February of 2002. I am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

I valued my right to vote and took every opportunity to express this right before and after I left Australia however, I was unable to maintain my enrollment as elections are called in such a way, and arrangements made for registration for postal or absentee voting, that sometimes were not sufficient for me to be able to vote due to travel to countries where the Australian government is not represented.

I was pleased to see that many Sudanese people were able to vote in Australia and that the ABC celebrated this fact in news coverage. I regret that the "two strikes and you are out" rule coupled with the prohibition on reapplying without an intended return date means that the same rights are not extended to Australians.

Respectfully

Craig Thorburn