

From: Ella Hurrell
Sent: Thursday, 1 May 2008 12:09 AM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)

Subject: Submission

To: The Committee Secretary, JSCEM

Dear Sir,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election.

I am writing in representation of my family of 5 members. Husband, John 58 yrs old, myself Ella 56 yrs old, daughter Elise 23 yrs old, and sons Rowan (22) and James (20). We all carry Australian Passports and feel frustrated and disenfranchised that we have been unable to vote in any Australian election for a number of years. We would like to have a voice in Australian elections.

We have lived out of Australia for 24 years having lived in numerous countries during that time because of work.

Our intention is to return to live in Australia. We visit frequently and have numerous family and friend ties in Australia. We are highly educated professionals (dentist and scientist with 3 children in graduate school here) who love Australia and are concerned about its governance and future.

We owned property in Australia and voted in Australia prior to leaving (Essendon in Victoria). We have sold our property and have been dropped from the electoral roll because these conditions were not fulfilled:

We did not enroll from overseas if you've dropped off the roll (within 3 Years of date of departure to live abroad) nor did we remain on the Roll while overseas for 6 years from date of departure which could have then been extended annually after the initial six years.

We were unaware during those early years away from Australia (24 yrs ago) that such steps needed to be taken and now find ourselves disenfranchised unintentionally...all 5 of us!

Please review my case and find a way to address our problem in the upcoming overhaul. Since we all carry Australian passports I would have thought that would be sufficient documentation to be entitled to be entered on the electoral roll, perhaps in its own category of living overseas.

I appreciate this opportunity in having been able to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,
Ella Hurrell