

**Wilson, Frances (REPS)**

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**From:** Carol Evans [islestyle@westnet.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 May 2008 2:08 PM  
**To:** Committee, EM (REPS)  
**Subject:** submission  
**Importance:** High

Dear Committee Chairman,

Given the close result in 2007 Federal Election for the seat of Bowman and the Returning Officer's refusal to allow a further re-count, I hereby ask this Committee to investigate the rejection procedure of Postal Votes:-

On 15th February I received an unsigned letter from Bowman DRO advising my postal vote had been rejected because of differing signatures. I forward this letter via Sen. Hogg to Sen. Faulkner. The reply from Sen. Faulkner was even more astonishing as it appears my signature differed on every form I signed.

I spoke with Michael O'Kearney (RO Bowman) who suggested I should have included a note advising of my badly injured thumb & arthritis caused the change in signature since my enrolment in 1998.

Since injuring my thumb in January 2007 I have signed without question:-

- witnessed numerous documents in my capacity as a JP (Qual)
- Master Card and Credit Card purchase docketts,
- Credit Union Australia documents
- Victoria Point Branch of ALP - cheques and other CBA documents
- Victoria Point Branch ALP annual return
- Centrelink documents for obtaining a carer's pension
- Seniors Card application forms

As I have taken an active role in all elections since 2000, in every level of Government, I am familiar with procedure.

If all these allegations are true why haven't I been questioned (by AFP) as to whether I did actually sign any papers? I did apply for a postal vote, voted using the PV provided.

I also witnessed my husband's PV also yet his was not queried.

Was the Returning Officer unbiased in his decision?

Yours faithfully,

**Carol Evans**

Carol Evans (Mrs.)

PO Box 152, Russell Island 4184. (48 Cavendish Street)  
(REF BOWM01565M) ECQ No. 8355



**Senator the Hon John Faulkner**

Special Minister of State  
Cabinet Secretary

Senator John Hogg  
Deputy President of the Senate  
Senator for Queensland  
876 Old Cleveland Road  
CARINA QLD 4152

Dear ~~Senator~~

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2008 on behalf of Ms Carol Evans of Russell Island concerning the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)'s decision not to count her vote in the 2007 federal election.

The AEC has investigated this matter and has provided me with the following information.

The preliminary scrutiny for the 2007 Federal Election for the Division of Bowman was conducted in accordance with standard AEC procedures and was observed by scrutineers nominated by the political parties. During the scrutiny, AEC staff rejected Ms Evans' Postal Vote Certificate envelope as the signature did not match the one on her Postal Vote application.

The Divisional Returning Officer for Bowman (DRO) then checked all rejected declaration envelopes, including Postal Vote Certificate envelopes, confirming the rejection of Ms Evans' Postal Vote Certificate on the same ground.

In cases such as this, there is no discretion under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* for the DRO to have accepted Ms Evans' postal vote. On 11 December 2007, the DRO rejected Ms Evans' Postal Vote Certificate as the signature on the envelope was clearly different to that on her enrolment application and her postal vote application.