

To the house of representatives Canberra,

REASONS: In a democracy everyone that major laws effect should be heard. The needs of young people are not considered to the same extent, despite many parliamentary decisions affecting them. At 16 young people can legally leave school and get full time work. They pay taxes and many have part time work. At 17 they can leave home and are legally responsible for themselves. With widespread internet use, young people have far more knowledge, maturity and responsibilities than ever before.

Many young people are passionate about political issues, particularly while they are studying these at school. This interest often dwindles by the time they reach 18. Students would be far more interested and engaged in being educated in political/legal issues if they could actively participate in these systems while in high school.

Young people can be considered a minority group in society and the way to change this is to protect their rights by allowing them to vote. A lot of politicians are older and are out of touch with the values of young people. This would force them to consider their views. Make Australia more democratic and representative.

REQUEST FOR ACTION: That the age at which people become eligible to vote be lowered to 16. We request that at the ages of 16 and 17 voting be optional before it becomes compulsory at 18.