

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 148
Date Received 29-3-05
Secretary

Michael O'Reilly
 405 McNeill Place
 55 Walker St
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Dear Minister

Just recently I heard your comment about non compulsory voting in Australia and as an idea I think it a good one

I am a subscriber to the A.E.C. Newsletter and in the Report on the 1999 Referendum I was surprised at the number of inquiries for translations into language other than Australian/English as to what a Referendum was and how one makes their vote heard

You will note in that Report on page 43 Cantonese, Mandarin and Viet Namese top the list

I felt in the build-up to the 2004 Election the A.E.C. were frantic in their calls for people to enrol to vote especially over the A.B.C.

I think its ironic we expect these people who do not understand the vernacular to vote at all

2.

Here in Redfern we have many who are of Oriental race, in the McPhill building alone about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the residents are, about $\frac{1}{3}$ Russian and the rest Australian or English.

Parliament is completely out of their comprehension. They are made to enrol however as soon as they take up residence. I think it outrageous to say the least.

One other thing while we are at it. I could be an O'Reilly from Dublin and a terrorist working for Shein Feine and the I.R.A. but I can enrol and say yes I'm an Australian citizen on the enrolment form and no one ever checks this out.

Not even on Polling day as my name and address is being crossed off am I asked for proof of citizenship..... why?

Perhaps the P.M. has the answer

Most sincerely yours Michael O'Keilly