

SUBMISSION 69

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From: Dr Robert O. Jones [r.jones@fz-juelich.de]
Sent: Thursday, 15 May 2008 7:03 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Cc: r.jones@fz-juelich.de
Subject: Submission

From: Dr Robert O. Jones
E-mail: r.jones@fz-juelich.de
Phone: +49 2461 614202

Address:

Meisenweg 9f
52425 Juelich
Germany

Message:

To: The Committee Secretary, JSCEM

Dear Sir,

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

I have been living overseas for many years, but I visit Australia frequently and remained on the

electoral roll (electorate of Perth, WA) until 10 years ago, when my name was removed. I visit Australia

regularly, as my immediate family (brother, sister, and both parents until their recent deaths) live in

Perth, WA. I pay Australian tax on my Australian income and remain in close contact with Australian

affairs. I am a citizen of Australia and of no other country. I cannot vote in any election in my

country of residence (Germany).

I have been distressed for years that the Australian electoral law does not permit Australian citizens

overseas to play a full role in the political processes of their country. The United States changed its

electoral law some years ago to allow all US citizens to vote in Presidential elections, and I would

welcome similar changes to our laws. At the very least, it should be possible for overseas Australians

to stay on the electoral roll for a much longer period than now possible, with the right (if necessary)

to extend this in an easy manner.

There are many people in my situation. Australia matters to us, and we think that it is our right to

play a role expected of Australian citizens resident in Australia. I shall be following developments and

hope for significant changes.

Thank you.

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Yours sincerely,
Dr Robert O. Jones