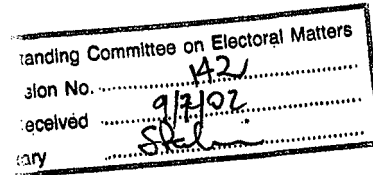


AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (PHILIPPINES) INC.

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July 4, 2002



The Committee Secretary
 Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
 Parliament House
 Canberra ACT 2600
 AUSTRALIA
 FAX: +61 2 6277 4710

SUBMISSION

Dear Gentlemen:

We propose that the following amendments should be made in the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918:

- Delete the six-year limitation on absence from Australia from the provisions on overseas enrolment and eligible overseas elector status in the Act.
- Delete the two-year limitation on enrolment from overseas and enrolment should be possible for Australians overseas at any time.
- Delete the requirement that a person who has left Australia for employment reasons has to enroll again to qualify to be in the electoral roll.
- Delete the two-year limitation on applying for eligible overseas elector status and the application for this status should be possible at any time from overseas, as long as the Australian citizen is still on the electoral roll.
- Remove the requirement that the person must show the intention to resume residing in Australia for either enrolment from overseas or the attainment of eligible overseas elector status.

We believe that these proposed amendments would restore the right to vote to all Australian citizens of voting age who are staying overseas.

In our case, approximately 70% of the 250 members of our Chamber in the Philippines are Australian citizens.

Sincerely yours,

William (Bill) Mason
 Immediate Past President