

SUBMISSION 170



Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
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SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION
TO
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS

INQUIRY INTO
THE CONDUCT OF THE 2004 ELECTION

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I thank the Committee for the opportunity to lodge a further Submission to deal with matters raised at its hearing in Brisbane on 6 July.

Attached are Attachments A-D which are respectively a paper given at an ASPAG workshop on fixed term parliaments, a paper given to the South Australian Constitutional Conference 1981, an extract from a report in 1990 of the (Queensland) Electoral Administrative Review Commission of which I was a member, and an extract from the report in 2000 of the Queensland Constitutional Review Commission of which I was chairman. I continue to hold the opinions expressed therein.

Concerning the dates at which preferential voting was adopted for Commonwealth elections, the CEA 1918 adopted preferential voting for the House of Representatives with a requirement for an expression of preference for all candidate; the CEA 1919 adopted preferential voting for the Senate with a requirement for an expression of preferences for twice the number of Senators to be elected plus one with further preferences optional; the CEA 1934 changed the 1919 requirement to require expression of preferences for all candidates.

As to the impact of preferential voting for the House subject as it is to a requirement of preferences for all candidates, the period 1919-2004 is best divided into 3 phases: 1919-54 pre-DLP, 1955-74 DLP, 1975—2004 post-DLP. Then the proportion of divisions in which preferences had to be distributed to determine a winner rises steadily: 20.5%, 26.5%, 36.8%. But the proportion in which the outcome is changed from what first preferences would have produced varies little: 6.6%, 6.5% and 5.2% respectively. The instances in which an Independent or a minor party candidate wins *as a proportion of all changed outcomes* are rare: 2.6%, 1.6% and 3.5% respectively of those already small figures – a total of such 6 MHRs winning an election since 1919.