

SUBMISSION 62

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From: John Miller

Sent: Saturday, 3 June 2006 3:28 AM

To: Committee, EM (REPS)

Subject: Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am Australian by birth, and lived in Australia permanently up until 1996.

In 1996, I moved with my Brazilian wife back to her home country, so we could assist with caring for and being with other family members.

Since then, I have returned to Australia every 2-3 years to visit family and friends, etc.

My wife and I are still not certain if we will continue to live in Brasil, and we would like to keep our options open for returning to Australia on a more permanent basis.

As such, I have an ongoing interest in Australia politics and government, and the future of Australia.

I unfortunately was not fully aware of the laws related to the electoral roll and expatriate voting, and as such have become disenfranchised.

Recently I have been getting excellent advice and guidance from the Southern Cross Group in such matters.

There are many consequences to moving overseas, and I guess it is everyone individual responsibility in these areas, but at times, I do feel these consequences could be better communicated and shared.

For example, it would be a simply matter to make this information available inside every passport, and or as a leaflet to every Australian departing Australia.

But more importantly, I really do not think it is fair to be deleted from the electoral role in the first place just because I have not been resident or voted overseas for 3 years.

I paid A GREAT DEAL OF TAXES in Australia for over 20 years, my heritage, culture and upbringing is Australian, I seek to promote and act as an Ambassador for Australia at every opportunity while I am overseas, and I would like to help with developing business relationships between Australia and my country of residency: Brasil.

Regards,

John R. Miller