

**Read, Shane (REPS)**

**From:** Shannon Tobin [shazza48@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 July 2002 3:17 AM  
**To:** JSCEM@aph.gov.au  
**Cc:** shazza48@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submission

**From:** Shannon Tobin  
**E-mail:** [shazza48@hotmail.com](mailto:shazza48@hotmail.com)  
**Phone:** 0041 797 369 144

Address:

Obergrundstrasse, 71  
CH-6003 Luzern  
Switzerland

Message:

**To:** The Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee  
on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No. ....	65
Date Received .....	1/7/02
Secretary .....	Shawni

Dear Sir,

This submission is in response to the JSCEM's invitation for public comment as part of its Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2001 Federal Election.

My name is Shannon Tobin and I am an Australian Citizen currently studying overseas. I have been in Switzerland for 9 months and am returning to Australia for a short period in the coming month, before returning for the new school year in Europe.

Upon my departure for overseas study, I phoned my local electoral office in the federal electorate of Lilly asking what I needed to do in order to maintain my voting rights whilst overseas. The person with whom I spoke with asked me if I had a permanent address overseas. At that time, I had not yet found suitable accommodation. The suggestion made was that I compose a letter, explaining that I will be overseas and have no fixed address, which makes me exempt from voting whilst I am away.

Therefore, I did not vote in the previous federal election. I am up to date on current issues in Australia, and almost daily read the newspapers over the internet. I believe that all Australians should have the right to vote, no matter which country they are currently living in. Even though this is now the case, I feel that the federal government should make clear the conditions of voting from overseas. For example, I did not realise that after a two year period I can be removed from the electoral role.

Also, an easier system should be put in place, so all Australians with a fixed address or not, can vote for their party of choice without travelling to a different city, or having to contact their local embassy, which is often difficult.

I hope that the federal government will seriously consider the current voting situation for Australians living overseas.

Regards,  
Shannon Tobin