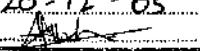


9 Wandri Close
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Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 17
Date Received 20-12-05
Secretary 

20 December 2004

Mr Jim Lloyd MP
Federal Member for Robertson
PO Box 577
GOSFORD NSW 2250

Dear Jim

I am writing in regard to an article by Glenn Milne in the "Sunday Telegraph" dated 19 December 2004 titled "Coalition plans an overhaul of voting system". My immediate reaction was "About time!" For many years now I have lamented to my husband, mother and anyone else who'd listen, that I thought our voting system was "draconian" to say the least.

The article by Mr Milne did not delve too deeply into exactly what reforms Mr Tony Smith would be looking to implement. However, one aspect I hope he will review is the use of a pencil to cast a vote. Legal documents must be completed by using black pen; cheques must be made out and signed in either black or blue pen. Why is it then that we can vote in pencil. Surely electing the people who are going to govern us is as important (if not more important) as these.

I would like to go one step further and see the voting system brought into the 21st century and have people use computers to cast their vote. Most schools and/or libraries have computers, so why can't we utilise these when voting. This would also eliminate votes that are "lost" on their way to be counted.

Another aspect of our voting laws I find disconcerting is the fact that I can vote anywhere in my electorate. Surely this system is open to roting. Years ago this wasn't the case. A person had to go to a particular place to cast their vote - much more sensible in my view.

I wish Mr Smith well with the task ahead of him and hope we get a much more sensible and streamlined system of voting.

Yours faithfully


(Mrs) Jenny Miller