

TO: Parliament of Australia, Joint Committee on Electoral Matters,

SUBJECT: "Inquiry into the conduct of the 2010 Federal Election and matters related thereto."

DATE: February 5, 2011.

INQUIRY COMMENT:

As an Australian citizen living abroad (USA) I would like to comment on the prevailing inability of Australian citizens to vote in Australian elections simply because their circumstances are they that do not physically reside in Australia.

In this age of globalization it appears as an antiquated policy and law to deny an Australian citizen the right to vote simply because of place of residence. The true test to allow participating in the Australian electoral process and voting should be "citizenship." I value and respect my Australian citizenship, making contact with Australia, and its residents, on a daily basis. I am an informed Australian citizen that while I do not physically reside in Australia this does not preclude me from actively participating in its affairs, including educational and business matters, and personal, and family contacts. I have two (2) daughters who are also Australian citizens and because they, like me, reside in the United States, are denied the democratic privilege of voting rights. This shouldn't be the case for a citizen of Australia, a country that prides itself internationally on its democratic principles and fundamental human rights and privileges.

Please consider the requirement of citizenship, rather than residency, as the most important qualification to participate in any Australian election. I am prepared to provide additional details and information as an Australian citizen, residing abroad to your hearing process if requested.

Thank You for allowing the opportunity to comment,

BRUCE W. PARKER