

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS SUBMISSION

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

We are compelled to vote by law which I believe is a fair responsibility as a citizen of a country.

This compulsion is not designed to ensure merely that every adult attends a polling place each election day. Nor is it designed that every adult places a piece of paper into a ballot box.

Rather it is that we all cast an equal and full value vote to choose someone to represent our political opinions in a parliament.

Not one person votes for a member of parliament to be in opposition in any electorate.

However by definition when all our votes are tallied, only 50% plus one of formal votes have value.

Allowing for informal voters this means less than 50% of the adult population vote for all the members of parliament in the House of Representatives.

More than 50% of voters who are compelled to vote are completely disenfranchised and merely go through the motion of placing a piece of paper in a ballot box.

If one votes for the winning candidate in any electorate who attracts more the 50% plus one votes then that vote becomes superfluous, because other voters have determined the representative for that electorate.

If one votes for any other candidate, that vote likewise becomes meaningless, and the voter is disenfranchised. Indeed a second placed candidate can attract more votes than an elected candidate in other seats.

It should not be that the Australian Electoral Commission manipulates electoral boundaries to create a "fair" result. In some elections they fail with the losing political party receiving more than 50% of the nation vote yet finding itself in opposition having won fewer seats.

It should be the peoples choice, the choice of all voters equally whom determine the result of an election.

By contrast a vote for candidates in the Senate where proportional representation is used allows every formal vote to count. Indeed a voter can see their individual vote contribute to the election of a member of the Senate. If their vote is removed one can see that if only slightly the result would be changed.

Only in the Senate is there a blend of political opinions and ultimately a consensus.

Thus if I am compelled to vote, then allow my vote to have an equal and full value along with all other citizens in the House of Representatives, and that we have a true democracy using the proportional representation method of counting votes.

from

DALE REEVE