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Submission No 00A

29 September, 2009

The Secretary
House of Representatives Committee
Houses of Parliament
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RECEIVEDSM
30 SEP 2009
BY: LACA

Dear Sir

REFERENDUM INQUIRY

I understand that you are holding an Inquiry as to whether a Yes/No Booklet should be distributed to all Electors prior to a Referendum being held.

For those Electors who do not have time to read the newspapers and internet sites so comprehensively prior to a Referendum being held, it is imperative that the requirements since 1912 (now contained in the Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984) be maintained.

The 14 days required under section 11 of that Act for the Electoral Commissioner to distribute booklets to each Elector is a major safeguard for the Constitution.

You will appreciate that many Electors do not have access to the internet and that email addresses are not available to the Government of the day, thus the postal service is the most comprehensive manner in which such information can be distributed to all registered addresses on the Electoral Roll, so that the Electors are fully versed in all the arguments in favour and against the particular Referendum proposal.

Yet again when we are in the midst of a global financial crisis I cannot see why such an Inquiry should be held by the House of Representatives, when there are far more important issues affecting this country such as the problems for example with the health services, educational services and public infrastructure, let alone the economy.

I should be grateful if you would kindly place this letter before the Committee Chairman, so that he may pass on to all the Members of the Committee the above views, which I am sure are supported by the bulk of the Electorate.

With many thanks in anticipation.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully

PETER M.G. YOUNG