

From: Mark Hurd
Sent: Saturday, 25 May 2002 6:00 PM
To: Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Subject: JSCEM Inquiry into the 2001 Federal Election

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Endorsement of the Display of "Above the Line" Preference Flows at Polling Places

I'd like to ensure the display of the "above the line" preference flows for the Senate ballot paper, as submitted by the "parties", occurs at all polling places. It would be preferable if they were available elsewhere as well (and the web versions should be available HTML format, not just PDF).

I see this as a last chance to understand the motivations of the parties and their alignments with other candidates. If I've never heard of party X, but normally support party Y (but vote below the line on the Senate ballot paper), their assigned preferences to party X candidates can be helpful to me allocating preferences. Of course, if I always put party Z last, then their preferences to party X are also useful to know.

A more complete solution would be to display a small "policy summary" submitted by every candidate, similar to most "smaller" elections and what is often available in other places and publications, but I see this as much harder to organise.

Please feel free to ask for more feedback regarding this submission.

Regards,
Mark Hurd, B.Sc.(Ma.) (Hons.)

Mark Hurd