

Read, Shane (REPS)

From: Dr Lucy Zinkiewicz [l_zinkiewicz@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2002 5:06 AM
To: JSCEM@aph.gov.au
Cc: l_zinkiewicz@yahoo.com
Subject: Submission

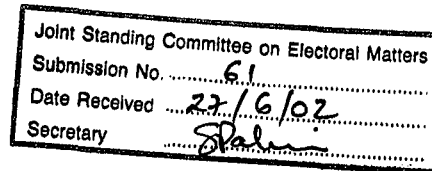
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Message:

To: The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee
on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia



Dear Sir,

This submission is in response to the JSCEM's invitation for public comment as part of its Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2001 Federal Election.

I believe that the current voting arrangements for Australian citizens overseas - that unless you register yourself as an overseas voter you will not be sent a postal ballot for any relevant election - are unreasonable.

I in fact was not able to vote in the last Federal election, as I had not realised that completion of an application for a postal vote was not sufficient for a postal ballot to be sent to me in the UK. I completed such a form, & sent it in, then wondered why I didn't receive a postal ballot. I contacted the AEC by email, & they very politely responded to my query about my 'missing' ballot paper, & whether or not I would therefore be fined for not voting in the election. On their advice, I wrote a letter to the AEC explaining why I had not voted.

Just after doing this, I was exploring the AEC website to find out electoral results in seats of interest, & discovered that unless I completed an additional form, applying for registration as an overseas elector, I would not be/have been sent a postal ballot, despite completing the other form. This astonished me!

I emailed the AEC again to explain what had happened and to ask them to ignore my latest email/letter. They very sweetly did not take offence at my wasting their time!
I then sent off this latest form, & hope it's been received!

If I, with a PhD, can't manage to work out how to vote in the Australian Federal Election, what hope has the average Aussie overseas?

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission, and I hope to see some positive outcomes as a result of this Inquiry.

Yours sincerely
Lucy Zinkiewicz BA(Hons)Melb,PhDQld