

From: Tursi, Jennifer M [Jennifer.Tursi@pfizer.com]
Sent: Thursday, 15 May 2008 10:58 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: Submission- JSCEM
To: The Committee Secretary, JSCEM

SUBMISSION 72

Dear Sir,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election.

My name is Jennifer Tursi and I am an Australian citizen resident in Italy since 1996. I do not remember exactly when I voted as an Overseas vote (Milan Trade Commission office) probably around 1995 but I found the service very efficient. I have not voted in Australian Elections since the time of my Italian residency as I notified the Australian Electoral Commission of my non-resident status. I am/was not aware I might maintain my voting rights while I remain a resident of another country.

I regularly return to Australia as my family reside there and obviously I maintain strong links with family, friends and understand the issues that affect their lives. Up until 2002 I was submitting income tax returns due to estate and business dealings I had there however I was refused the renewal of my Medicare card during that period because I was not longer a resident (regardless of continuing to pay the Medicare Levy). As a consequence I decided to end all financial dealings in Australia because I did not believe it purposeful to be paying taxation and the Medicare levy without having the security of the national health service if the need arose during my short stays.

I am not an Italian citizen so in fact I am disenfranchised from both electoral systems, yet Italian nationals living abroad are permitted to vote in their Federal elections.

I was pleased to learn through the Southern Cross Group of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters will be reviewing the opinions of the Diaspora. in this era of globalisation, where work and opportunities may take you anywhere throughout this globe it seems unthinkable that a sophisticated country such as ours cannot take the lead from the Italians - whose electoral process is frankly vastly inferior to the Australian one- and permit those who still call Australia home to vote.

respectfully yours

Jennifer M. Tursi, MSc
Assoc. Director, Oncology Development
Pfizer Italy, S.r.L.
Via Lorenteggio 257
20152 Milan
ITALY
Tel. +39-02-41498.540
Fax +39-02-41498.382
Mobile +39-346-6955309
e-mail: jennifer.tursi@pfizer.com

This electronic message, including its attachments, is COMPANY CONFIDENTIAL and may contain PROPRIETARY or LEGALLY PRIVILEGED information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message or any of the information included in it is unauthorized and strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please immediately notify the sender by reply e-mail and permanently delete this message and its attachments, along with any copies thereof.