

From: Griffin [eoin.griffin@t-online.de]
Sent: Thursday, 15 May 2008 7:32 AM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: To: The Committee Secretary, JSCEM

From : Mr Eoin Lauchlann-Griffin,
Arndtstr 12,
D-27570 Bremerhaven
Germany

Dear Sir,

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

I am concerned over the loss of my right as an Australian citizen to vote. I was advised to take my name off the electoral role, for tax reasons, as I was leaving Australia. This was in June, 2000. I have since learnt that my this advice was incorrect, however I now have lost the right to a say in my country's election.

My family still resides in Australia and I maintain an interest in Australian current affairs. Friends whom I maintain contact with sometimes forward newspaper articles of interest and I regularly check various mainstream Australian media websites. So although my career has taken me away from our island continent I am still a concerned Australian.

As such I maintain various business contacts within Australia if I were ever to return to Australia on a permanent basis. I have plans to return to my home country if only for short periods of time.

Not being able to have a say in how my country is run is a major concern of mine. I have lost my right to vote in the one country I care about because I work outside of Australia.

I believe every Australian citizen has a right to vote. Whether they are current or overseas residents every Australian citizen should be heard at election time. So in conclusion I believe that all Australians should be given equal opportunity to enrol and vote in Australian elections regardless of their residential status.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr E. L-Griffin