



Chris Hayes MP



FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FOWLER – GOVERNMENT WHIP

15 DEC 2010

Mr Daryl Melham
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

SUBMISSION 5

Dear Mr Melham *Daryl*

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' inquiry into the conduct of the 2010 federal election.

In my electorate of Fowler, the most noticeable issue on election day was there did not appear to be enough Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) staff or individual voting booths at polling places.

There were very long queues, with reports voters had to wait in line for a number of hours. Many booth workers reported that people were enquiring about the size of the fine for failing to vote. When they were informed the fine is only \$20, many left the line saying they would prefer to pay a small fine rather than wait in line any longer.

In addition, many voters complained about the significant difference between voting in federal and state elections. For example, in state elections in NSW, voters are only required to number one box on the ballot paper. However, the same type of voting is considered informal in a federal election because voters are required to number every box on the ballot paper.

It is my understanding that this significant difference led to a large number of informal votes during the 2010 federal election.

On a positive note, once again the Virtual Tally Room run by the AEC operated efficiently and effectively on election night and proved to be a valuable resource to myself and my campaign staff.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS HAYES MP

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