

From: Richard McCarthy

Message:

To: The Inquiry Secretary, Ms Samantha Mannette, JSCEM

Dear Ms Mannette,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2010 Federal Election.

I am an Australian citizen living in the United Kingdom who was not able to vote in the 2010 election. I wanted to vote and express my views as an Australian.

I have been living outside Australia since 1997.

I am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

I am a proud Australian.

I went to high school in Sydney and university in NSW.

I read the SMH every day and have vegemite on my toast each morning.

I visit my parents and family in Australia every year.

However as I live abroad, I can not vote in Australian elections.

That does not make feel very Australian.

I feel robbed of what any Australian in Australia would argue strongly is a basic right.

Why does Australia treat its citizens like this ?

We need real and lasting electoral law change to support all Australians.

I understand prisoners can now vote in Australian elections and yet as a citizen, I still can not.

I live in hope that I will one day be able to vote as an Australian in Australian elections.

With your help and support, this can happen.

Many thanks and best regards,

Richard McCarthy

Australian born citizen resident in London.