

From: Alexander Johnston

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 Concepcion, Chile.

I have been living outside Australia since 2000, working in Finance in a private water utility. However, during this time I have returned at least once a year to visit family and friends and to attend to other matters. I am planing to return to Australia to live and work in the near future.

I am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

My experiences with the Australian federal electoral system while offshore are as follows:

- I was removed from the electoral role without notice for the 2004, 2007 and 2010 elections
- I tried to re-enrol a number of times, but the online site did not find my previous details, and hence I could not reenrol without being physically in Australia.

I do not see the reason that citizens should be removed from the roll, only because they are overseas for x amount of time. More and more Australians are working overseas, but this is usually on a temporary basis, and the great majority retain close ties to current events at home.

I hope that my experience helps to change this rule.

Regards,  
Alexander Johnston