

From: Nigel Brown

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

I am an Australian citizen living in Canada, but moving with a foreign service wife every 2 - 4 years.

I have been living outside Australia since 1995.

I am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

My experiences with the Australian federal electoral system while offshore are as follows: I lost my right to vote in 1995 when living in the Dominican Republic. My wife and I stayed in an hotel for two months before finding a suitable residence. I wrote to the electoral commission with my new address and a month or so later when the letter miraculously arrived (due to the local postal systems poor reliability, not that of the commission) was told I'd already passed the time limit for registering.

Having once fallen off the register it is not possible for me to get back onto it until I return to live in Australia. I feel this is unjust.

I request you consider my case and that of thousands of other ex-patriots and allow us to vote, at least in federal elections. I believe it would be fair to also allow voting for ex-patriots in state/territory and council elections if a person has a family home in a particular electorate. Since I only have a rental property in Australia, that wider voting group would not include me however.

Thank you for considering my submission.