

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

I am an Australian citizen living in Houston, Texas

I have been living outside Australia since 1998. I work for BHP ever since I graduated from university. I was offered a position in London where I worked for 6 years, and I was then transferred to Houston, where I have been for the last 7 years.

I am/am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

My experiences with the Australian federal electoral system while offshore are as follows: I last voted in London, but did not realize I had to maintain status as an Eligible Overseas Elector.

When my enrolment lapsed, I was unable to renew. My wife who is also Australian is in the same situation. We return home every year to visit family, and generally spend 4 to 6 weeks of the year in Australia, even though we have been living overseas.

I write to request that you consider amending the legislation to allow people like myself to be able to register to vote again.

Thank you

David Anthony