

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

I am an Australian citizen living in the United Kingdom.

I have been living outside Australia since August 2007.

I am currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

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

- I voted at Australia House in London for the 2010 Federal Election.
- I found the opening times and information provided to be very helpful, although there is often a significant delay in information received by post which can have a material impact when applying for postal votes. If I were to rely upon information received by post, rather than through various news websites and the AEC, I would not be sufficiently informed about how to exercise my right to vote. This did not affect me in 2010 as it was possible for me to attend Australia House in person, however I feel this creates difficulties for people who live outside London or can not reach the nearest Embassy.
- I was enrolled to vote prior to leaving Australia. I intend to return to Australia and still have close ties to my home, remaining abreast of Australian events via internet based media.
- While overseas, I am no less passionate about my country and strongly support my right to remain on the electoral roll. I am concerned that with the current limitations on overseas voting, I risk becoming disenfranchised in the future. As an Australian citizen, and in a country with compulsory voting, I view it as my obligation to vote to ensure that government is representative of all Australian values and aspirations. For this reason, I would support the relaxation on both the restrictions to enrol from overseas, and the restrictions placed on overseas voters to maintain their enrolment.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Rowell