The Liberal Party of Australia

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 178
Date Received 9/12/02
Secretary

6 December 2002

Mr Alex Olah
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Room R2.118
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Olah

Thank you for your recent letter to Bruce Edwards asking for additional comments on 4 matters raised during the appearance before the Committee of the then Federal Director of the Liberal Party, Lynton Crosby.

With regard to the provisions for the Court of Disputed Returns, we do not have any particular recommendations to make at this time.

Regarding the matter of how-to-vote cards, I express some caution about whether this is a matter that would receive agreement through discussion at COAG. I would anticipate that the States and Territories would be likely to wish to maintain whatever provisions they have made under their own legislation.

On the question of homeless persons, there have been detailed submissions to the Committee by others. We would not seek to add to that material.

The fourth matter is our proposal for consideration of having a body separate from the Australian Electoral Commission responsible for the quality of the electoral roll. We stand by what we said in our written submission on this matter. We maintain our concerns about the integrity of the electoral roll and we assert that it remains important for consideration to be given to having a body with the specialist role of seeing to the accuracy and integrity of the electoral roll.

This need not necessarily require taking every aspect of roll administration away from the AEC, but it does at the least involve creation of a small body with the task of acting to ensure the accuracy

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and integrity of the electoral roll. Such a body would act as a special auditor of the AEC's administration of the roll, and it would also have the power to give directions to the AEC when it saw fit to do so about actions the AEC should take to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the roll.

Yours sincerely

JOHN BURSTON
Acting Federal Director