

Dear Sir,

I understand a submission has been made in relation to people with intersex conditions voting in federal elections (<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/elect01/index.htm>). The AIS Support Group Australia would like to make a general submission for your committee's consideration.

People with intersex conditions are those born with reproductive organs and/or sex chromosomes that are not exclusively male or female. The previous term for these people was 'hermaphrodites'. Approximately one in 1000 children are born with these conditions which is about 20,000 Australians. There was one candidate in the 2001 Federal Election that openly disclosed his intersex condition (refer [http://home.vicnet.net.au/~aissg/MCV\\_article121001.htm](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~aissg/MCV_article121001.htm)).

Most people with intersex conditions are raised, and identify as exclusively male or female. However, a small number also identify as not only having an intersex condition, but also an intersex gender. The AISSGA believes these people should be legally recognised in their self identified gender.

The easiest way for the AEC to permit these people to vote in their self identified gender is to enable all people to register to vote without any reference to their sex. If sex must be detailed for any specific purpose however, people should be given the ability to tick a box other than male or female. We respectfully suggest this extra category be 'other' to permit those outside the intersex community (such as transgender people) to also use this category if they feel it is appropriate.

I have attached the AISSGA's recent submission to the NSW Law Reform Commission and Anti-Discrimination Board for your information. I believe it contains definitions and background information that will be helpful in considering the issues of people with intersex conditions who do not identify exclusively as male or female in future elections.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Regards,

Tony

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"To thine self be true."  
- William Shakespeare