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The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Canberra ACT 2600
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Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to make a submission regarding the 2000 Federal Election (my own experience).

In mid August 2001, I have arrived in Warsaw, Poland. I knew about federal elections in Australia were to be held later that year. In August the date was uncertain.

In late August I have contacted the Australian diplomatic mission in Poland with request to advise me about the election's date and possibility to take the absent vote. I have completed a questionnaire with my telephone number and the address in Warsaw.

Nobody from the Australian diplomatic mission had contacted me during my three months stay in Poland. The Polish speaking employee at the diplomatic mission demonstrated very little knowledge of the Australian electoral culture.

I learnt about the election from "The Australian" on the flight from Singapore to Melbourne. I have arrived at the Tullamarine airport late afternoon on the Election Day. I took my absent vote at the airport.

Truly yours

W. Kowalik

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 24
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Secretary <i>[Signature]</i>