

Read, Shane (REPS)

From: R. James W. Cattlin [jcattlin@access1.net]
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2002 3:16 PM
To: JSCEM@aph.gov.au
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Subject: Submission

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Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 96
Date Received 4/7/02
Secretary <i>Shane</i>

Message:

To: The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee
on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir,

This submission is in response to the JSCEM's invitation for public comment as part of its Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2001 Federal Election.

I am an Australian citizen who has lived in California for the past 25 years. Prior to leaving Sydney I resided in North Sydney electorate and before that in Bradfield electorate.

For the majority of the time here I was with an Australian company and therefore stayed abreast of Australian business and politics as well as several sports. In addition I regularly visited Australia and have kept in touch with friends and relatives. Now the internet provides daily updates through Australian newspapers.

I last voted in Sydney prior to 1976 and believed when I sold property there I was no longer entitled to vote. I was not aware i needed to enroll overseas and could have voted for up to 6 years after arriving in USA.

I firmly believe all Australian citizens should have the right to vote, wherever they reside. Those who live overseas should register to vote but there should be no time limit imposed for remaining on the Roll. Once registered a citizen takes on the responsibility to vote and therefore could be fined. Also the responsibility to update registration would also be upon the citizen concerned.

I look forward to following the progress of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters.