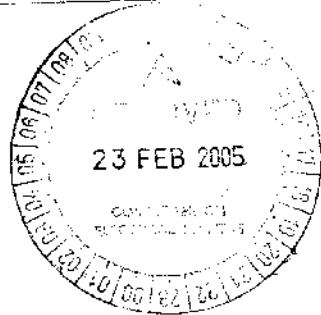


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JSCEM  
 Parliament House  
 Canberra, 2600

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	3
Date Received	23-2-05
Secretary	<i>Alma</i>

Attention Bev Forbes.

Dear Bev  
 Thanks for your

letter relating to the 2004 federal election.

I am forwarding to you the following items that may be beneficial as a submission if deemed so.

I was on duty as an AEC member for the Federal Seat of Hasluck in Western Australia on the day of the election.

During the day I was removing surplus HOW TO VOTE CARDS from voting cubicles when a young lady asked me for help to fill out her voting slip. She was confused by handouts from the different groups.

The advice given was for her to fill in her slips her way and not to be influenced by any particular party.

Shortly before closing time in Western Australia, a young man placed his voting paper in BALLOT BOXES when I was on guard duty and stated it didn't matter what happened here in the West as Mark Latham had conceded defeat in his area.

He was informed that all votes count especially in marginal seats where there could be a swing either way.

Finally after the final count had been published in the local papers I was concerned over the informal votes.

It came down to the following solution

Many people voted for the sake of voting to avoid being fined and didn't care about a proper vote. Lack of education for young people having their first vote and not mature enough to make things count for themselves. Not asking parents or older people how to vote properly.

③ Before the next Federal Election or by Election a campaign be undertaken to educate young people and those who have become Naturalized Citizens on their respective voting rights at both Federal and State levels.

④ It is suggested that to save money and resources by all Political Parties, HOW TO VOTE CARDS be reduced in size to brochure size. This would save space in recycling and make Political Parties more accountable to the public by being brief and to the point in their policies.

⑤ Informal votes are a wasted votes in all seats and young people not be influenced by either Media or Spouting personalities who may try to influence them.

This is all for now and I trust I have not wasted your time with this letter and its contents. If you have any queries please contact me at the address given.

This is all for now and a reply appreciated.

Yours Faithfully  
(M.A.) R. COWLEY