



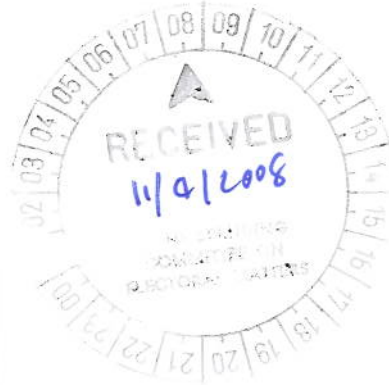
The Seat of Grey covers 92% of South Australia, including the State Electorates of Giles & Flinders, and the majority of Frome, Stuart & Goyder.



ROWAN RAMSEY MP

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA • HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
April 2008 Federal Member for Grey

Mr Daryl Melham MP
Chairman
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
P.O. Box 6021
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Daryl

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the conduct of the 2007 federal election in 'remote' or 'very remote' locations.

The largest group of voters in Grey using the mobile voting booths reside in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands. During voting week I had a "voting support team" following the booth. A number of disturbing practices were observed at these booths.

In the AP Lands assisted voting is as high as 80%. Voters were asked did they wish to vote for Howard or Rudd when, in fact they could do neither.

In one community it was, obvious voters were told to vote for one particular position on the paper, (in this case two from the bottom) suggesting great need for a unbiased education program if the process is to have credibility.

One party had not arranged for voting information to be available, How to Vote material was faxed in using state government fax/ printing facilities and then supplied to voters.

At one booth, my voting material after being accepted by the voter was then taken away from them further down the line of party helpers.

Residents need tools to make an informed choice not be subject to mass indoctrination. If our democratic process is to have integrity it is imperative our elections be above and beyond question.

Trusting you find these comments constructive.

Yours sincerely

ROWAN RAMSEY MP
Federal Member for Grey

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