

From: Martin Wesson

Message:

To: The Inquiry Secretary, Ms Samantha Mannette, JSCEM

Dear Ms Mannette,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2010 Federal Election.

I am an Australian citizen living in Germany.

I have been living outside Australia since 1992.

I am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

I'd just like to send you my few thoughts on the subject:

As an Australian who has been living overseas for almost two decades, I have long since been disenfranchised. I understand the reason for this under the Westminster system of government. Without an electorate – a place where I live in Australia – I am hardly qualified to vote on the issues affecting a Sydney or NSW resident. However, I would like to have my opinion acknowledged on social or political matters that affect Australian citizens as such, irregardless of address. Issues that come to mind are republicanism and conscription. I would like to reconcile my belief in – and encouragement of more – national referendums with a parliamentary system based on voting for a local member representing the interests of a specific geographical region.

Martin Wesson