

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

I am an Australian citizen currently living in Sweden.

I have been living outside Australia since November 1996.

I am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll and do not understand how I fell off.

My experiences with the Australian federal electoral system while offshore are as follows:

I had an Australian residential address and had voted previously while living overseas.

I was not given any notification for being removed from the electoral roll nor was I given any reason.

As an Australian citizen with family still there, I actively participate in Australian groups abroad and take a keen interest in what is happening in Australia. I visit at least once a year and intend to return to Australia permanently within the next two years.

I find it very disappointing that Australian expats abroad are removed from the electoral roll with no notification. There are many of us who feel very strongly about our country and believe we should have a say in who runs it, even from afar.

I know many other expats from other countries who retain their voting rights in their country of citizenship and do not understand why Australia does not allow the same.

Please restore voting rights to all expats.

Regards
Heidi Hughes