



National Secretariat

23 February 2012

Daryl Melham MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
PO Box 6021
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ACT 2600

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE ELECTORAL AND REFERENDUM AMENDMENT (PROTECTING ELECTOR PARTICIPATION) BILL 2012

Dear Daryl

Thank you for your letter of 17 February regarding the JSCEM inquiry into the above listed Bill.

The ALP made a detailed submission to the Committee regarding these aspects of electoral law reform, and I would refer Committee members to the comments made in that submission during the recently concluded inquiry into the 2010 Federal Election:

"The ALP has previously recommended that the JSCEM investigate and recommend that the AEC introduce an automatic enrolment system to further enfranchise eligible Australians.

The ALP renews its calls for an automatic enrolment system to be introduced before the next Federal Election following significant confusion regarding enrolment and successful challenges in both the Federal Court and High Court to enrolment determinations made by the AEC in the 2010 Federal Election.

An automatic enrolment system would complement existing roll verification activities conducted by the AEC and enhance them. While the AEC currently uses several utilities databases to confirm that a voter no longer lives at an address, the AEC could use this data to update the voter's details automatically, thereby reducing the need for a variation to enrolment to be lodged, and preserving the voter's franchise.

Such an automatic enrolment system should also be used to enrol young voters provisionally before they turn 18 by utilising databases such as State and Territory motor registries and school graduation databases.

The ALP suggests that the JSCEM investigate the New South Wales Smart Roll which has been introduced and will be tested for the first time at the State Election on 26th March 2014."

The ALP believes that this submission provides a clear statement of the position of the ALP on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Wright', written in a cursive style.

George Wright
National Secretary