

## SUBMISSION 38

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Department of House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

I am a Australian citizen living in France. When I moved here in 1991, I had no idea that I could have remained on the electoral roll in Australia, at least for a time. Information about this possibility was not made available to me at any time during my preparations for departure, and I only discovered this recently. I thought that "voting at the Embassy" was only for travellers. Of course, I am now totally disenfranchised, with no possibility of ever re-enrolling, which is ironic, as I am now as well, if not better, informed about Australian politics than ever before. As an Australian citizen, I am still affected by Australian laws made by Australian politicians in Australia.

I believe that the AEC could and should do much more to inform all overseas travellers and citizens resident abroad about the possibility of remaining on the electoral roll, how to vote while abroad, and especially how to maintain one's enrolment, complicated as this is. A widespread communication campaign could be directed through passport offices, travel agencies and airlines, airports and through consular services abroad. This must be done for "a healthy democracy [to have] citizens who are informed, appreciate and participate in the various elements of our representative democracy" no matter where they live.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Magnin