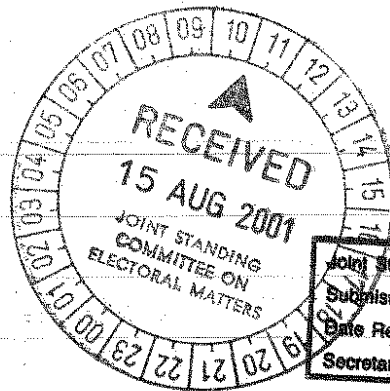


The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on
Electoral matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



R.W. May
8 Klem Ave
Walter Hill
W.A. 6152

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	2001
Submission No.	58112
Date Received	26/06/02
Secretary	R.W. May

Dear Sir,

I received a comprehensive reply from Senator The Hon. Eric Abetz in reply to a letter of mine concerning Compulsory voting and preferential voting in which he concludes with the advice that should I wish to pursue the matter I should write to you.

The subject of compulsory voting need not concern us further as I whole heartedly support that policy.

What I object to is compulsory voting on preferences.

As it stands the system is open to manipulation by Party strategists, which is an unhealthy component of an otherwise second to none method of election.

The individual voter should have the absolute right to decide on preferences or not.

Provided a voting paper bears the figure No. 1 against a candidate's name that vote should be valid, irrespective of how many candidates are standing.

Take for example a seat for which 5 candidates are standing.

If I am an uncertain voter but prefer say any 3 candidates out of the 5, being unsupportive of the other 2, I should be allowed to vote 1, 2, 3 of my acceptable candidates & leave blank the other two.

If I am a particularly strong Party voter I should be allowed to vote 1 for the candidate representing the Party I support and ignore the rest.

If, on the other hand, I do have a distinct order of preferences, I should be allowed to complete the 5 spaces accordingly.

In effect the choice should be wholly mine as an independent voter.

This system would eliminate at least 50% of previously invalid votes.

It would eliminate the "odious" "sweetheart deals" between Parties and the "jiggery pokery" that precedes ^{elections} elections, casting an unpleasant

whiff in the background.

It would eliminate the deplorable waste of effort and funds on "How To Vote" cards which one witnesses at every election - taken with one hand and cast into the w.p.b. with the other.

There would, of course, be absolutely no objection to Parties publishing their respective "How To Vote" preferences in the press.

All voters need do, should they wish, is to cut out the appropriate section & take it to the voting booth with them.

- I ask,
- ① Could this system be subject to abuse? If so, how?
 - ② Is it not logically just in its simplicity?
 - ③ Is it not fairer than the present system, giving the individual voter his/her due right to an independent preference or not?

Yours sincerely
Bob Day

Committee Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral matters,
Parliament House

Canberra A.C.T. 2600

R.W. HAY
8 KLEM AVE.
SALTER POINT
W.A. 6152.

8th June 2002.

Dear Sir

Re: Inquiry into the conduct of the 2001 Federal Election

I thank you for your letter of the 4th inst.

Please accept my letter, already held by you, as my
submission to the Inquiry.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Bob Hay.

PS. Please correct my address on your records. It is

8 KLEM AVENUE, not 8 KLEIN AVENUE

