

SUBMISSION 75

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From: Stephen Thomas Blackney [s.blackney@btinternet.com]
Sent: Friday, 16 May 2008 11:37 AM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Cc: s.blackney@btinternet.com
Subject: Submission

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Message:

To: The Committee Secretary, JSCEM

Dear Sir,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election.

I am an Australian who has been disenfranchised since moving to the UK in 1985. Originally I intended returning in 2 years but studies and then the recession in the late '80s delayed the return. At no time, even when I voted at Australia House in that period, was I informed that I could lose the vote.

So I have had some of my citizenship taken away without seeking to become a citizen elsewhere.

My Australian passport is the only one I have, despite pressure from my employer in the '90s to adopt a more convenient one for travel in Eastern Europe.

I come from Victoria and grew up in the bush and in Melbourne. My wife is English. She and I were living in Flemington when we left. My family was based in Eaglemont.

I am proud of being Australian, we are different, and find it embarrassing that I can vote in the UK elections by virtue of being a commonwealth citizen but can't vote in my own country.

I would like to have my voting rights back please.

Regards,

Stephen Blackney