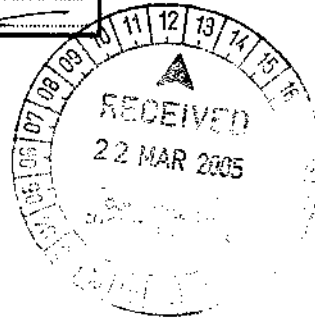


SUBMISSION NO. 82

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	82
Date Received	22-3-05
Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>



75 Heller Street
West Brunswick 3055

15/3/05

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in reference the committee's review into the 2004 Federal election. I was appalled to hear that Family First had won a seat with so few votes. This was all because of preference deals by the ALP so people placing a one in a box above the line were possibly fooled. Many people assumed Labour was second preferencing the Greens but hidden behind this easy one number method was a deal to direct preferences away from the Greens. Not many people vote below the line in the Federal Senate elections, as the papers are always so large. They rely on their favoured party to look after the preferencing. In this case they let the voters down.

I would like to see an end to this. The legislation introduced by Senator Bob Brown to allow voters to allocate preferences above the line seems very sensible to me and may be a way to stop this type of thing happening in the future.
Upper House elections in NSW now have a similar practice, why not for Federal elections?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Hooper'.

Christine Hooper