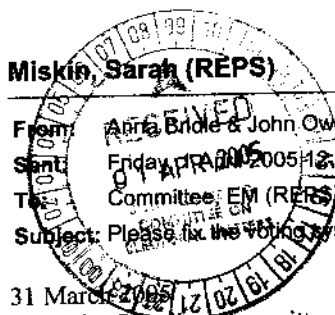


March 2005

SUBMISSION NO. 110



Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 116
Date Received 1-3-05
Secretary [Signature]

Miskin, Sarah (REPS)
From: Anna Bridle & John Owens [anajos@hotmail.net.au]
Sent: Friday, 31 March 2005 12:18 AM
To: Committee: EM (REPS)
Subject: Please fix the voting system.March 2005.doc

31 March 2005
The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House Canberra. 2600.

Dear Committee Members,

Fixing the Senate Voting System

I understand that the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral matters is conducting a review into the 2004 Federal election. I would like to offer some comments for your consideration, although I may have missed the deadline.

I am very concerned that at the last federal election secret preference deals done by other political parties against the wishes of their supporters denied the Greens additional Senate seats. In Victoria, a Family First Senator was elected with less than 2% of the vote, when the Greens candi-date was not elected after achieving over 8% of the vote. The ALP directed preferences away from the Greens against the wishes of their members and voters.

It seems to me that it is an undemocratic system that enables this situation to arise. As this is a count-ry that purports to be democratic, something should be done quickly to rectify the problem. It seems that Senator Brown has introduced legislation into the Senate, that would allow each voter rather than to parties to allocate preferences above the line. The legislation is based on similar legis-lation initiated by the Greens in NSW which is now law for the NSW Upper House elections.

I support this proposed legislation wholeheartedly and request that your committee support it too.

Thank you very much for your attention,
Yours sincerely,
Anna Bridle
P.O.Box 267, Nerang 4211.

1/04/2005