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COUNCIL FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST  
 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE

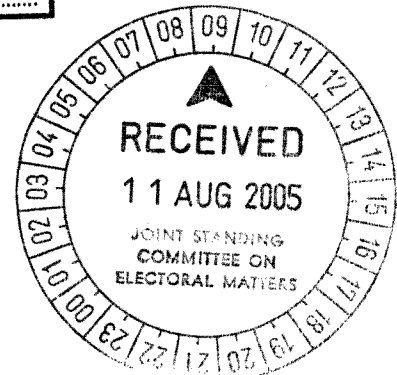


Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No. ....	185
Date Received .....	11/8/05
Secretary .....	SD

9th August, 2005

**A SUBMISSION**

TO: The Joint Standing Committee  
 on Electoral Matters  
 Parliament House  
 CANBERRA ACT 2600



**ELECTORAL ENROLMENT FRAUD AND VOTING FRAUD**

**Background**

The Council for the National Interest Western Australian Committee (CNI) has been concerned about the evidence of the potential, which exists, for electoral enrolment fraud and voting fraud under the current provisions of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 as amended (the Electoral Act). This concern prompted a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) following the 2001 federal election.

Not being satisfied with the JSCEM recommendations which followed from the consideration of the 2001 Election, CNI made a further submission to the Commonwealth Government Minister responsible for electoral matters on 25 March 2004 with a copy to JSCEM.

This submission was based on the premise "The overwhelming and irrefutable conclusion to be drawn from a study of "The Fraudging of Votes" (with introduction by Bob Bottom) (1) and "Fraudging of Elections", (2) and other related publications is that fraudging of electoral enrolment and fraudging of electoral votes has occurred in Australia on a significant scale and further that the circumstances remain for fraud to continue."

To justify this statement the submission then gave some illustrations supported by references. CNI stands by this statement and the reputation of the source references.

**The Current Situation**

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Special Minister of State has now responded on 9 June 2005, to our submission 25 March 2004. We are pursuing aspects of his response with the Australian Electoral Commission and the Australian National Audit Office and others.

We are aware too that the recommendations of JSCEM following its inquiry into the 2001 Federal Election when put into legislation were watered down in the Senate by the majority vote of Labor and minor party Senators. The changes which were approved as set out in The Electoral and Referendum Amendment Act (Enrolment Integrity and Other Measures) Act 2004 ( the Enrolment Integrity Act) do not appear to us to have come into effect before the

2004 Federal Election. As a result due to a change in the balance of power in the Senate the Government has an opportunity to achieve the responsible electoral reform needed to secure the integrity of the Electoral Roll and close the loopholes which provide the potential for electoral enrolment fraud and voting fraud.

**CNI therefore Recommends**

- (i) **Identification of Enrolees** - All new enrolments, re-enrolment or change of enrolment details must be supported by indisputable proof of identification; the minimum being original passport or driver's licence or full Birth Registration Certificate supported by Corroborative evidence such as Medicare Card, Credit Card etc. All enrolments re-enrolments should be done personally where possible. Where not reasonably possible then the enrolment application must be witnessed by an authorised person such as Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Affidavits, Police Officer, Public Servant, Politician, Medical Doctor, Pharmacist, Postal Manager or similar official. The witness must personally sight the identification document and certify the copy provided to be "a true copy of the original".
- (ii) **Identification at the Polling Place** - Procedures must be put in place which ensure that the elector provides identification and proof of address to the satisfaction of the Polling Place supervisor, prior to the voting papers being handed to the elector. This could include a formal identification document for example a Driver's Licence with photo and address or a combination of documents for example a Medicare Card and a Rates Notice.
- (iii) **Multiple Voting** - Implementation of the requirements of the preceding section (ii) will go a considerable way towards deterring multiple voting but where an election result in any Seat is very close then before declaration of the poll for that Seat all polling place rolls and provisional votes must be scanned for any evidence of multiple voting.
- (iv) **Closing of the Electoral Roll** - The Electoral Roll must close precisely at the time an Election is called
- (v) **Postal, Pre-Poll and Provisional Votes** - The same stringent requirements as to personal identification and proof of address for polling place votes must be applied to this category of voters.
- (vi) **Public Education** - The AEC must be required to conduct an on going programme of public education and information about enrolment requirements, Polling Place voter identification and Roll closure. Prospective electors being properly informed will then come to the Polling Place armed with identification and those who fail to enrol or re-enrol will be disenfranchised by their failure, alone.

*REFERENCES*

- (1) McGrath, Dr. Amy OAM, "The Fraudging of Votes", H S Chapman Society
- (2) McGrath, Dr. Amy OAM, "Frauding of Elections", Towerhouse Publications

Sincerely



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Executive Director  
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