

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

Dear Sir

Please consider the following submission to the above-named committee:

One important issue for the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters to consider is the cut-off date for enrolment or re-enrolment once an election has been called.

Surely, in a democracy, the aim should be to enable as many people as possible to vote, not prevent them from voting.

There is no logical reason, then, why enrolments should not be accepted right up and indeed on election day itself. All the usual ID safeguards could be employed, as happens with provisional voting now.

This is the procedure which operates in the United States, Canada and even Nigeria. My good friend Andrew Becker, the former Australian Electoral Commissioner, tells me that the AEC could handle such a reform with ease. I humbly submit that Australia should aspire to match the voting procedures of Nigeria.

Phil Robins