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# SUBMISSION 167

**Subject:** Above-the-line voting for the Senate

I refer to the page 2 section of "The Australian" today (11/06/2008) in respect of the above subject under review.

Whilst my submission is not in respect of the above matter it prompts me to contact you with a long held view regarding the NECESSITY to vote, after my wife and I nursed ageing parents and other relatives prior to their respective deaths. My proposition is that parliament should legislate that people of the age of, say, 75 years and over should be afforded the OPTION to vote at any election rather than be REQUIRED to vote. I know that if there are extenuating circumstances, eg health etc. a voter will not be prosecuted, but why put these senior citizens through the trauma of having to validate their reason(s) for not voting. Our practical experience is that some people in this age category are quite happy and keen to vote, but others consider it a nuisance, stressful for fear of being fined and in some cases the sheer logistics in getting them to a booth is also traumatic. Additionally, some aged people are slipping into a state of dementia and simply do not know what they are doing on polling day. Arranging postal and/or absentee voting means that usually another person is inconvenienced to make sure this happens. I have no doubt that my suggestion would be supported by many people: both the respective voters themselves, and the carers and relatives of those voters. Should you wish to discuss this further at an appropriate time I would be pleased to if you would contact me as follows:

Gary Millar