

From: Peter Morris

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2010 Federal Election.

I am an Australian citizen living in the UK and I maintain connections with Australia, not least through the fact that I have a preserved Australian Government pension fund with the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS). When I eventually receive a pension it will be paid to me in Australian dollars into an Australian bank account no matter where I happen to live in the world. I also visit Australia regularly - 5 times in the past 14 years.

I have been living outside Australia since 1997.

I am currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

My experiences with the Australian federal electoral system while offshore are as follows:

I find it difficult to retain my right to vote under the existing rules but I have managed to vote in nearly all Australian elections since 1997.

Luckily I live within commuting distance of London which is the only polling station in the UK. Other colleagues living further afield in the UK are not so lucky.

I think it would be an improvement if people overseas were allowed to vote via a secure internet connection.

Also I would like to see it made easier to retain the right to vote in Australian elections whilst living overseas. I do retain strong connections with Australia and will likely return there in my retirement.

Other countries, for example, Italy, appear to make it easy for their citizens to vote in their National elections and they even have the right to directly vote for a candidate who represents them in the Italian Parliament. Australia could look at doing something similar for its citizens.