

Mr Daryl Melham MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

jscem@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Melham

Inquiry into the conduct of the 2010 Federal Election

I live on Norfolk Island, and I am enrolled in the Division of Canberra. I would like to comment on the various aspects of just how hard it has become to cast a vote in the Federal Election on Norfolk Island.

Voting Method

All persons on Norfolk Island, including those enrolled in the Division of Canberra, are required to complete a Declaration Vote in order to cast their vote.

When persons living on Norfolk Island were first given the opportunity to vote, at the next Federal Election those persons enrolled in the Division of Canberra were able to cast an Ordinary Vote. However since that time, I have had to complete a Declaration Vote.

The AEC states a Declaration Vote is "if your name and/or address details cannot be found on the certified list used at the polling place at which you have come to vote, or if your name has already been marked as having voted." None of these circumstances apply to me, and yet I am still required to complete a Declaration Vote.

I fail to see why the AEC requires all persons on Norfolk Island who are enrolled in the Division of Canberra to complete a Declaration Vote even though they are casting their vote at Polling Place inside the Division of Canberra electorate.

Polling Place delays

At previous elections, the AEC has provided 2 staff for the Polling Place on Norfolk Island. In 2010 this was reduced to 1 staff member which resulted in excessive waiting times for the Norfolk Island Polling Place. On my first visit to the Norfolk Island Polling Place, there was a long queue, and I was informed that there was in excess of a 1 hour wait. I went away and returned approximately 3 hours later. Even then the wait was over 45 minutes.

The cause of the excessive wait at the Norfolk Island Polling Place were

- Insufficient staff
- The increasing number of persons on Norfolk Island who are on the Federal Electoral Rolls
- The requirement for every vote to be Declaration vote, even for those persons on the roll for the Division of Canberra

I strongly urge the committee to recommend

- Increase the AEC staff at the Norfolk Island Polling Place to at least 2 persons;
- Stop the requirement for those persons on the roll for the Division of Canberra to cast a Declaration vote.

Virtual Tally Room Results

According to the AEC Virtual Tally Room “official election results” for the 2010 Federal Election none of the votes cast on Norfolk Island were counted.

This information can be found at

<http://results.aec.gov.au/15508/Website/HousePollingPlaceFirstPrefs-15508-32706.htm> and a printout from this page is attached to this submission.

I have to ask what is the point of being on the electoral roll and making the effort to attend a polling place and cast a vote if the AEC is either going to lose my vote, or doesn't count it?

Yours sincerely

Duncan Evans

**ELECTION
2010**

Virtual Tally Room
The official election results



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Updated: 2/09/2010 4:32:45 PM

POLLING PLACE - NORFOLK ISLAND PPVC

NOTES & HELP

- [View the list of polling places for the Division of Canberra](#)
- [View the list of divisions in ACT](#)

LOCATION

Premises Administrator's Office, New Military Barracks, NORFOLK ISLAND NSW 2899

Division Canberra

State Australian Capital Territory

FIRST PREFERENCES

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Swing (%)
JONES, Giulia	Liberal	0	0.00	-34.18
ELLERMAN, Sue	The Greens	0	0.00	-13.92
BRODTMANN, Gai	ELECTED Australian Labor Party	0	0.00	-50.63
.....	Citizens Electoral Council of Australia	0	0.00	-1.27
FORMAL		0	0.00	-98.75
INFORMAL		0	0.00	-1.25
TOTAL		0	0.00	-0.07

TWO CANDIDATE PREFERRED

Candidate	Party	Votes	Percentage (%)	Swing (%)
JONES, Giulia	Liberal	0	0.00	-62.82
BRODTMANN, Gai	ELECTED Australian Labor Party	0	0.00	-37.18

Help

This screen shows the number of votes and percentage of votes for candidates in one polling place and shows the Two Candidate Preferred for that polling place. On this screen you will find...

- the number of votes and the percentage of the formal vote received by each candidate
- the swing as measured as the difference between the percentage of first preference votes received by a party candidate at this election and the percentage of the first preference votes received by that party's candidate in the comparable polling place at the previous election
- the two-candidate-preferred results showing the percentages received for this election and swing.

Notes:

1. From 2010 the votes also include own division pre-poll votes issued as ordinary votes. Please note: this is a change from previous elections.
2. These results are final.