

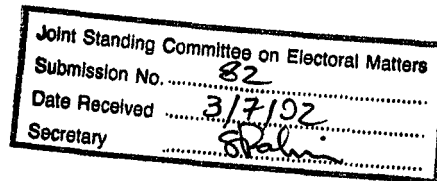
**Read, Shane (REPS)**

**From:** kerrie donlon [bikegirl2000@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 July 2002 5:59 AM  
**To:** JSCEM@aph.gov.au  
**Cc:** bikegirl2000@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submission

**From:** kerrie donlon  
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Message:

**To:** The Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee  
on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Sir,

This submission is in response to the JSCEM's invitation for public comment as part of its Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2001 Federal Election.

I have been in the US for majority of the past 12 months and am abroad every year. I come from the City of Moorabbin or Kingston electorate. I pay taxes and own property.

I have strong ties with my home and family, but am finding that my ties overseas and my passion to travel keep me on the move.

My love for my country and family and friends are what inspires and keeps me grounded. With all this in consideration it is what has lead me to start to build my travel company based out of Melbourne.

I am very grateful for the internet as it provides me with up to date info from home and abroad.

I am very passionate and proud to be an Australian and think that voting is a right not priveledge. I have never missed an election even when away.

However I was deeply disappointed with the voting procedures for last years federal election.

As I was in the US and Africa to the lead up to the election I was unaware that there was a federal election at all. It was from a personal letter from home that informed me of the news.

Being a strong believer in voting I planned to be in Bangkok, Thailand, at the Australian Embassy to exercise my democratic right and vote.

However when it came time to vote all I was given were my ballot papers. I enquired for more information but was told there was none.

I felt extremely dissappointed as I had put a lot of time and effort into making sure I could vote. Also frustated as I did not know who or what I was voting for.

I feel that my time and money could have been saved if this information could have been available at the AUSTRALIAN embassy, or on the internet or via mail requests.

I am concerned as to the procedures for the next upcoming elections. As I travel to and from my homeland frequently and for unknown times I am uncertain as to which voting category I fit into.

I think it could only be a step forward to make voting over the internet an option. And providing information with ballot papers. I can't understand why information was not available. All is needed is laminated information which can be reused, it is both cost and environmentally friendly as less paper is wasted.

I thank you for your time and hope that my story has been of assistance to help others voting while overseas.

Regards

Kerrie Donlon