

20080502sub041.txt

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Sent: Friday, 2 May 2008 4:32 AM  
To: Committee, EM (REPS)  
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Subject: Submission

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Message:

To: The Committee Secretary, JSCEM

Dear Sir,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election.

It is my experience that Australians overseas are not necessarily aware they are eligible to vote in Federal Elections. My husband and I recently moved to the USA but because we moved with L1 Visas we assumed we were not entitled to vote while residing outside of the country. It was not until we received notification in the mail for failing to vote that we discovered we in fact could have.

I think Australians temporarily leaving the country should be provided with information as they depart the country that indicates the process for voting while overseas. Additionally, notification via email or otherwise (surely if we have applied for Visas etc the Government has contact details on record) in the lead up to an election would also be useful.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Rhonda Kaan