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

Dear Mr Melham Daryl

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' inquiry into the conduct of the 2010 federal election.

In my electorate of Fowler, the most noticeable issue on election day was there did not appear to be enough Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) staff or individual voting booths at polling places.

There were very long queues, with reports voters had to wait in line for a number of hours. Many booth workers reported that people were enquiring about the size of the fine for falling to vote. When they were informed the fine is only $20, many left the line saying they would prefer to pay a small fine rather than wait in line any longer.

In addition, many voters complained about the significant difference between voting in federal and state elections. For example, in state elections in NSW, voters are only required to number one box on the ballot paper. However, the same type of voting is considered informal in a federal election because voters are required to number every box on the ballot paper.

It is my understanding that this significant difference led to a large number of informal votes during the 2010 federal election.

On a positive note, once again the Virtual Tally Room run by the AEC operated efficiently and effectively on election night and proved to be a valuable resource to myself and my campaign staff.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS HAYES MP

Electorate Office: Shop 1B, Cecil Hills Shopping Centre, Lancaster Avenue, Cecil Hills NSW 2171  
Phone: (02) 8786 1004 • Fax: (02) 8786 1005 • Email: chris.hayes.mp@aph.gov.au • Website: www.chrishayesmp.com  
Parliament House: Phone: (02) 6277 4682 • Fax: (02) 6277 8523.