

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

I am an Australian citizen living in Albuquerque NM USA.

I have been living outside Australia since 2001.

I am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll. I lost my right to vote due to a logistical and communication issue regarding my deadline to re-register. This was approximately two years ago.

At the time (before the due date), the AEC online information database appeared not to be working or showing my details, so I was unable to check my enrollment status. When I had tried to contact the AEC for assistance I found that the AEC was closed due to the holidays. This meant that by the time the staff returned, it was too late for them to respond to my query and my request for clarification and to receive my submission.

I am an Australian Citizen. It is a great disappointment to me that I am unable to vote and that I am now disenfranchised.

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

In addition to the above, it has been extremely difficult for me to receive timely information.

It also has been a very drawn out process, both time-wise and process-wise.

The steps to the process and the required paperwork is both difficult and time consuming to prepare, by comparison to an in- Australia vote.

There was usually a very tight/ small window of time within which I could lodge and vote through my US-based office, which was based in California.

As I live a long way from an Australian consulate or embassy, it was often a very touch and go process as to whether they had received and processed my paperwork and vote in time ie with enough time to send me my voting papers etc.

This was even more difficult for me when I lived in a more remote area in the north of this state, where mail services would take anything from three or four additional days up to an additional week to deliver mail to out of state destinations.

Sincerely

Samara Rivett