



Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters Department of House of  
Representatives Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

# Submission for the Inquiry into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2013 Federal Election and matters related thereto

Dear Secretary,

I feel compelled to issue a submission to this inquiry due to the serious faults with the present system of voting in Australian Senate elections. While faults are inherent in any electoral system, we should nevertheless strive for a clear, logical and effective mode of casting votes.

In the case of Australian Senate elections, the current voting system encourages both voter apathy (due to the size of the ballot), and secretive political dealmaking regarding the distribution of preferences. It can hardly be argued that either of these are beneficial to a healthy democracy. This could be changed by allowing voters to allocate preferences both above and below the line in Senate elections. No currently valid voting methods would be made invalid, and the issue of preference deals could be minimised.

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this discussion.

Sincerely,  
Gareth Morgan