



February 28th, 2014

To the Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters,

I would like to make the following submission to the Inquiry into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2013 Federal Election and matters related thereto.

As I see it being some time before electronic voting is implemented in Australia, I submit the following as interim measures to improve voting at Federal Elections.

**In regards to the Senate Paper:**

To simplify the entire Senate paper voting experience I urge you to implement the following:

1. To end the confusion of unknown hidden preference deals - remove the "above the line" single box voting option.
2. To prevent errors in filling out all boxes "below the line" only insist on a minimum of 15 boxes to be numbered. That is, allow boxes to be numbered from 1 to 15 as a minimum requirement for a valid vote. The remaining boxes could remain empty.
3. If the number of candidates causes such small printing on the ballot sheet that magnifying glasses are required then why not simply print half on one side of the ballot paper and the second half on the other side of the ballot paper thus enabling the use of a large font size?
4. To make writing easier for the infirm I urge you to supply pens not pencils at all polling booths. I always take my own pen as I find it much easier to clearly indicate the numbers I am entering into the boxes. If you have a concern about the theft of the pens then I suggest they be secured with a leash.

**In regards to the integrity of all voting:**

It is imperative to verify that the person voting is who they say they are. There has been much talk of producing photo ids at voting booths.

I urge you to implement "proof of identity" when voting.

If Photo Id is not possible for all voters then surely all eligible voters possess a Medicare card?

Producing a Photo Id or Medicare card at voting would not only improve the integrity of the entire voting system by reducing fraud and clerical errors but would also make the officials' job much easier in identifying the voter's entry on the electoral roll.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard Pascoe