

**From:** Des Morris  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 February 2014 12:32 PM  
**To:** Committee, EM (REPS)  
**Subject:** Sub082 Des Morris



Committee Secretariat,

I wish to make a submission to the Joint Committee on Electoral Matters. A submission to this inquiry was not given as an option in the Make a Submission page on the Parliament of Australia website:

My submission:

As one who took the time to investigate how parties were distributing preferences in the ballot for the Senate at the last election and then decided to vote below the line, I believe this aspect of our voting system needs urgent reform. The vast majority of people would not bother to find out how the party they support will distribute preferences. They are not privy to backroom deals and the ensuing distortions they produced. There were cases of conservative parties giving preferences to far left groups ahead of other conservatives.

May I suggest changes to the Senate ballot paper?

Above the line list every party or grouping. The voter is required to number every box in order of their preference.

Below the line the candidates list of candidates as they were in the 2013 paper. The voter only needs to number the boxes if they want to change the order the candidates have in the party or grouping. No need to number all the boxes, only the boxes of the party or grouping they want to change.

Above the line the voter numbers every box according to their preference of party or grouping and below the line they can change the order of candidates in as many party and groupings they want or none at all. Even the last listed candidate of a party or grouping can become the voter's first choice.

I ask the Joint Standing Committee to take my suggestion into consideration in their review of electoral matters.

Yours faithfully

Des Morris