



On the 19 February I wrote to my local member the Hon Mal Brough of Fisher re my concerns with the electoral outcomes of the 2013 elections. Mr Mal Brough suggested that I pass on my concerns and suggestions to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral matters. These concerns and suggestions are noted below.

My contention is that outcome from an individuals' vote must be as they direct on the ballot paper and not be determined by preference deals.

Preferential Voting

This issue was raised during and after the last House of Reps and Senate elections. It is illogical that in the Senate a number of people with less than 0.5% of the primary vote, ended up as Senators; instead of someone with a much higher primary vote.

This makes no sense to me.

When the fathers of Federation developed the preferential voting system currently used, they did not envision having in excess of 100 candidates nor the cascading set of deals that would skew the results of an election.

I want my vote to count in a way that I direct not by the preference deals done between major and minor parties and also individuals.
I believe I have the right to decide where my vote goes and I would like the electoral rules to be changed to ensure that I can exercise this right.

For both the House of Reps and the Senate, voters should have the choice of optional preferential voting.

For the House of Reps the voter would simply vote for the candidate of his choice. This system currently exists for Queensland State elections and works well.

For the Senate, the voter would vote for only the number of Senators who need to be elected and therefore allocation of preferences is not needed.

Another option for the Senate with its more complex quota system, would be to place a threshold limit that each candidate must exceed before they can receive or give preferences. For example 25% of a senate quota (approx 2% of the primary vote). If they receives less than 25% of a quota, then their preferences may only be allocated upwards to a candidate with a primary vote above the quota. Allocation of preferences cannot go to anyone who has not received more than the threshold value of primary votes.

Committee members, I want my vote to count; but, in a manner directed by me and not by others doing deals. Please consider my high level suggestions for change.

Frank Perrone

