

From: Alan Kindred
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2002 7:42 AM
To: JSCEM@aph.gov.au
Cc:
Subject: Submission

From: Alan Kindred
E-mail: _____
Phone:

Message:

To: The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee
on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir,

This submission is in response to the JSCEM's invitation for public comment as part of its Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2001 Federal Election.

My wife and I are Australian citizens who have lived in the United States since 1988. We lost our right to vote in Australian elections long ago, because we could not enroll on the Electoral Roll after ceasing to reside in Australia.

Both of us still have family and interests in Australia. We follow what is going on in Australia, both politically and economically, very closely. I remain an Australian taxpayer, and submit my Australian tax return every year.

We strongly recommend that the Government allow Australian citizens who reside outside Australia to vote in Australian elections.

American citizens can vote in U.S. elections wherever they live. Therefore, U.S. citizens living in Australia can vote in U.S. elections. Why should the Australian Government allow Americans to have that advantage, yet deny it to its own people?

Americans fought a revolution about "no taxation without representation." I am in the position of paying Australian taxes without the right to vote in Australian elections. Taxation and representation are important issues to all those who value freedom and democracy. Australia is, and by allowing us to vote, should continue to be, a leading light in the world in freedoms and democratic rights. What an excellent example Australia will set by allowing all of its citizens to vote, wherever they may live!

The Government showed great enlightenment in repealing Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act. The Government can show the same enlightenment by allowing all of its citizens to vote in Australian elections, wherever they live in the world.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,

Alan and Maureen Kindred