



Sent: Monday, 17 February 2014 8:58 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: Above the line voting in Senate elections

To : The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

Dear Senators,

There are a number of concerns that a person may have in regard to voting on the senate ballot paper as the number of persons on the paper have increased to make the font very small. Some of the single issue parties are set up to enhance the vote of another party. It seems to me that the system of choosing your first preference party to support is one thing and yet you may think and value things differently to the party's own thinking and so you may choose to preference differently that right can be better delivered by being able to "team preference" that is to number above the line if your preference is different to your first preference registered voting preference. I suggest that a '1' above the line in a single box gives registered preferences of your chosen group to be followed or a person may choose to mark each and every team box above the line to show the chosen preferences via team selection. (all boxes but one must be numbered to be a formal vote, however I would take advice on the ungrouped perhaps the ungrouped if selected will need to be numbered below the line as well – perhaps confusing). A person may still choose to go below the line if they wish to.

The other concern I have is parties that ride on the name and reputation of other parties or groups. The registered name must be not able to be confused with others. Example: Country Labor, Liberal Democrats, National Alliance, so on and so forth as these are all riding on the good name and reputation of other parties. So a more careful look must be had at the registering of a name of a group or party. Even the Australian Christian can cause concern as it is the name of a news letter of the Churches of Christ. I am certain that the church was unaware of the party creating that name as their focus was not on politics but of informing their church members of relevant information, this also can cause confusion for some in the voting community.

It is my strong desire that the electors have the simplest and easiest way to vote before them and as many have only a passing interest in politics we need them to know whom they have voted for and for them to be confident that they were sure the one they voted for was the one they believed they have voted for. I hope this helps you in your deliberations and recommendations.

Yours in Good Faith
Milton Caine

- To: Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
- Message: Please allow voters to list their own party preferences above the line in Senate elections – and abolish preference tickets.