

From: Peter Withers
Sent: Sunday, 23 February 2014 2:17 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)

Submission 055
Date Received: 23 February 2014



Subject: Sub055 Peter Withers

To:
Committee Sec.
Joint standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Department of House of Representatives
Email: em@aph.gov.au

CC to Ken Wyatt MP

Dear Sirs,

I am informed that it is the Government's intention to restrict access to the Australian Electoral Roll.

As an adoptee I wish to protest this most strongly.

In many cases searching the Electoral Roll is the only way an adoptee can gain information about their Birth Family. This was in fact instrumental in helping find my surviving birth family 60 years after my adoption.

In fact The Federal Government announced in March 2013 as part of their apology for past forced adoptions that adoptees should have access to "freely available records and assistance in reconnecting with lost family"

However by taking this action the government is reversing this statement and shutting the door firmly in the face of adoptees who have a right to this information.

You will note that Electoral records are available for search in other countries, including the UK where no such restriction exists.

I strongly urge the Government to reconsider this divisive and uncaring action which will have repercussions on a small but vulnerable minority.

Kind Regards,
Kind Regards,
Peter Withers