

Date Received: 21 February 2014

From: Julia Jessop
Sent: Friday, 21 February 2014 11:13 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: Sub070 Julia Jessop



I would like to comment that I do not feel that at the 2013 Election there was enough information available to me as an ordinary voter to make an informed choice as to who to vote for and who to direct my preferences to, with regard to the Senate vote.

I refuse to vote "above the line" because no-one at the polling station could tell me where the preferences of any of the group tickets would be directed, and I felt that my vote could end up supporting someone I did not want to vote for.

So I chose to vote "below the line" but that was a challenge. I started with my preferred candidates, starting at 1 and continuing until I had expressed my positive votes. Then I started at the other end and numbered backwards so to exclude those candidates I did not want to elect. There were then a great mass in the middle which I simply knew nothing about. How does one choose between a set of unknown parties and individuals, and how can you possibly know how those candidates would vote on matters of interest to me should they be elected?

I would like to have been able to stop numbering the candidates below the line once I ran out of information and positive choices, so that for example I could number 1 to 20 then my preferences would run out. I realise that one or more of my votes could default in that case, but I consider that my vote would be uninformed anyway at that point if it were just redirected to a candidate I was forced to number just to keep my vote valid, but who I know nothing about.

Also, I would like to agree with those who have suggested that any candidate who fails to reach 4% of the initial vote, be excluded at that stage since they obviously do not command widespread popular support.

However I do not agree that the money which has to be put up to be a candidate should be raised too much as I feel it is part of democracy that anyone who wants to stand for election should have the opportunity to put themselves before the electorate. We do not want to be like America where it always appears that you can only be a candidate if you have a lot of money.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Julia Jessop

