

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission for matters relating to Section 44 of the Constitution

Dear Committee Secretary

My name is Paula D Hall. I live in NE Victoria, am married with two grown children. I am a committed volunteer in my community.

- * I have served Alpine Health in the capacity of committee person for Community Health and Advisory Group for 21 years. I sub committed in the role of multicultural diversity, writing policy for Alpine Health's position on same.
- * I began a library program for pre-schoolers 25 years ago, that is current in 5 townships still today. I started the Friends of Bright Library writing the constitution and successfully growing membership to its current viability to this day.
- * I was Secretary and President of the Bright Toy Library for three years, and was on the Committee of Management for our local Childcare Centre for three years. My primary role was with Staff and I wrote the Child Care policy document.
- * I am the President of the Bright and District Ratepayers Association and have had this role for one year now, although, I have been a member of this organisation for 6 years.
- * I am currently training as an Ambassador for the HUME RICS state wide program on coping with cancer, what you need to know and where to get help, and should be up and ready to talk to groups in the beginning of next year.

* I am also seeking membership to be on the committee for the Wellness Centre at Albury Wodonga Cancer Centre.

* I am a Remedial Massage Therapist, Oncology Massage Therapist, have my Diploma in Bowen Therapy and am a Walker and Emmett Therapist. I am a member in good standing with the Massage and Myotherapy Association and The Bowen Federation Association.

IN order for all Australians to ensure that their elected officials are constitutionally able to serve, it is quite clear that the very simple line that the candidate must sign, stating their knowledge of not being aligned with any other country, or being a dual citizen is simple enough.

Before a candidate puts his/her hand up, it is important that they appreciate the severity and sincerity of their response and only sign if they have done their own due diligence to answer this question intelligently. If I may say so, if, a person who is putting themselves up to serve the Australian Parliament, cannot do this very simple background check on themselves, what trust do we have that they would do the due diligence on representing their constituents properly and intelligently? If I am asked to sign a document, I would ensure I know fully what I am signing and know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I am signing 100% correctly.

I also believe that if a candidate is aligned with a Political Party that it is up to the Political Party governance to system check before that person can put their hand up to represent. No one would be discouraged to serve, they must be prepared to be solely aligned to Australia and do the due diligence that this requires as a very minimum. If, the Political Party has not done their due diligence to support their candidate, there must be provision for fining and recuperating funds for any costing to the Australian public. If the candidate has signed saying that they are indeed only an Australian citizen with no affiliations with any other country, and they are found to be in error, then all money received during any tenure in office be returned, all votes be rescinded and no further superannuation be paid. This is very serious business and the failure to do the right thing to begin with should be very high to keep this kind of distrustful and disrespectful behaviour out of the conundrum.

The person should never again be allowed to work in public office for the Government under any title.

I have answered within the terms of reference. There should be no change to the section 44 other than to be clear on the above points of consequences for failure to comply.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this submission.

I am

Sincerely yours,

Paula D Hall, CMT (USA)