



**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2013 4:04 PM  
**To:** Gillespie, David (MP)  
**Subject:** UNJUSTIFIED AEC FAILURE TO VOTE NOTICES

Dr David Gillespie  
Federal Member for Lyne  
04/12/2013  
Dear Dr Gillespie

RE: Ramifications of unwarranted AEC notices for "Apparent failure to vote"  
My wife and I received "Apparent failure to vote" notices from the AEC Taree office on 03/12 and 04/12 this week. We returned the completed notices on the day of receipt indicating that we had indeed voted on 07 September having both been directed to the same female polling booth officer and received identical and apparently correct procedure, including address check and ruling through name.

We notified Naree of the problem at your electoral office and were later informed by her that the AEC confirmed that 3,500 such notices had been issued, "possibly as a result of a scanning error". Naree was also told that the AEC does not issue apologies. Unfortunately, the policy as described does not offer closure of the matter unless confirmation of the fact that we voted - and are not subject to the \$20 fine detailed in the notice - is provided. At the moment no such guarantee exists and it is unclear as to how we can prove that we voted when the apparent absence of that (indelible?) hard copy "proof" has led to this situation.

May we stress that the fine is not the critical issue: this is the first problem we have ever encountered with the AEC but it is disturbing that it has occurred at the same time as allegations of multiple voting, the declared Get Up goal of enrolling an army of "missing persons", "missing" and "found" ballot papers, a ludicrous Senate ballot paper and circus sideshow Senate parties. In short, we have no confidence in the current Australian federal electoral system - including and especially the protection of the rights of electors.

It would appear that the long-recommended overhaul of the identification requirement for voters is an absolute necessity. This would also need to be accompanied by the issuing of a secure "proof of having voted" receipt. Perhaps the recognition of voting as a Right rather than a compulsory chore would also help those who see voting as a responsible contribution to our democracy feel empowered rather than obligated.

Our thanks to Naree for her assistance and to you for whatever assistance you may be able to provide if the need arises.

Sincerely

Richard Clarke (For Richard & Helen Clarke)

Richard Laurence Clarke  
Helen Irene Clarke