

ATTENTION. Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee

THIS IS A SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF SENATOR ROBERTS "INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS BILL

1. My wife and I , after discussions with family, neighbours, and friends, think it is essential and urgent, that this BILL is enacted by the Senate & Parliament of Australia.

2. Australia does not in our future , want to go down the path that has occurred in the USA in 2020,. That Nation is now totally divided along political lines, with "bad blood", hatred, social & community divisions, which has resulted in a total lack of trust in the integrity of the electoral process and its results. The "medicine" of ensuring the electoral integrity of future Commonwealth Elections, as proposed in this BILL from Senator Roberts, will "nip in the bud" any prospect of future similar disputes in Australia, with its terrible social and community divisions , that lack of trust in the electoral process and disputed political results will inevitably ensure.

2. SCHEDULE 1. (AUDITING)

An Audit of The Australian Electoral Commission practices & processes following each Commonwealth Election by the Australian Audit Office, as proposed in this BILL, is highly desirable. This Audit would avoid politicalization & dispute by making the Electoral Commissions actions transparent - thus votes, rolls, tallies, & preference allocation can be trusted and accepted by the Australian People.

We push for acceptance of the proposal in the BILL for all Computers and Computerised Processes, to be audited by the AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS DIRECTORATE. We have all seen the confusion , anger, & division, and nonacceptance of the result - in certain States of the USA using computerised tally machines etc to count votes & results - in the last USA Election.

The only way to ensure trust in the result ,and the process , in future Commonwealth Elections is to have a respected Body like the SIGNALS DIRECTORATE to examine and audit computers and machines - The whole process is then above politics , is transparent, and results can be trusted, and accepted generally.

REMEMBER the 10,000 missing votes in a West Australian Electorate a few years back ? This , and a few other minor incidents in the past, prove the wisdom of enacting this Bill now at this time

3. SCHEDULE 2. (PROOF OF IDENTITY)

This proposal in the BILL is essential, if the Result of future Elections are to be trusted and accepted by the Australian Community at large. There have in the past been several Commonwealth Seats won on a small number of votes. Proof of Identity is just one more tool to ensure integrity & transparency of Elections, and acceptance of the result by the public. It will probably minimise the use of The Court of Disputed Returns in some future election results.

Over the last 40 years I have heard a few dozen anecdotal cases of people who voted multiple times in Commonwealth Elections. Such comments have caused me concern & anger. It has caused me to speculate on the integrity of the election result on occasion.

Some proof of Identity at the Voting Booth appears to be a very simple and convenient way to ensure integrity of the voter and of the result - when used in partnership with the proposals in 2 above.

The requirement for individuals to produce some form of identity before receiving their Ballot Papers at the Booth is very simple and very convenient.

All of us are required to produce some form of Identity very frequently in our every-day lives - it is a condition of life these days. So it is not an inconvenience nor should it deter people from voting - people are used to it !

e.g. we do it when we enter a RSL or other Club, We use Covid Check-in every day to shop. We use it in our Banking and Finance activities, When we pick up tickets to Theatre or Transport. To vote on shares in Company Meetings. To vote as members of a Social or Community Organisation To access the Internet etc etc.

The process & requirement to prove your Identity is such a common thing these days as we go about our everyday lives, that I suggest we have come to expect it as a matter of course.

I suggest IT is no longer a disincentive for people not to exercise their right to vote, and IT should be made mandatory in order to protect the integrity of future elections and the acceptance of future results.

4. I (and my acquaintances) support RECOMMENDATION 21 of the Joint Select Committee on Electoral Matters, which is contained in this BILL and ask the SENATE and the PARLIAMENT to make our future Commonwealth Electoral processes secure, fair, transparent, and above politics by Passing & Enacting this BILL as Proposed

Peter Kirby