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**From:** Thomas Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 August 2019 5:28 PM  
**To:** Committee, EM (REPS)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2019 Federal Election and matters related thereto

**Submission: Permanent residents should not be permitted to vote in Australian elections**

[REDACTED]

I regard suffrage as the supreme right of Australian citizenship. One of the reasons we returned to Australia after living and working in Switzerland for some years was the extreme difficulty of obtaining permanent residency, let alone Swiss citizenship. I bear the Swiss no malice for making it so hard for foreigners to stay and become citizens. I respect their right to determine who may become Swiss - it is their country, and they make the rules and laws to suit themselves, as should we.

I volunteer as a teacher of German through our local U3A (University of the Third Age). This week in class we discussed the differences in requirements needed to apply for German and Australian citizenship. I note that there are many here who admire the Germans for their attitude to migration, but their regulations to who may actually become a German citizen are something else. Here's [a link to the main requirements to becoming a German citizen](#). Note the language proficiency requirement is to B1 standard. This is according to the European language proficiency scale, which is from A1 (beginner with basic knowledge) to C2 (proficiency to the level of a well-educated professional native-born person). B1 proficiency would enable you to hold down a job without difficulty and start a tertiary (even university) course. Compare that with that asked of applicants for Australian citizenship. Note also that applicants may not have a criminal record.

I wear my nationality with great pride. I am committed to Australia. I respect anybody who comes to this country who makes the decision to become an Australian citizenship not for the convenience of unfettered travel but out of a sense of commitment to this land. I give my utmost respect to those whose commitment is so great that they give up their previous nationality to become Australian.

Regards,  
Tom Smith