

From: Andrew Best
Sent: Wednesday, 29 May 2002 3:46 AM
To: JSCEM@aph.gov.au
Cc:
Subject: Submission

From: Andrew Best

Message:

To: The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee
on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir,

This submission is in response to the JSCEM's invitation for public comment as part of its Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2001 Federal Election.

I write as one of many Australians living overseas who can no longer vote in Australian elections and referendums.

I have been living in the UK for 10 years, and expect to return to Australia in the next 5 years. All of my family still live in Australia, and I regularly return to visit. I am very interested in keeping up with Australian events (thanks to the ABC for their excellent twice daily email news reports).

As an Australian, I would like to have the opportunity to have my say in the running of the country to which I still feel very much attached, and to which I have every intention of returning. I was on the electoral register before departing Australia and was proud to vote, and feel that I should be still be able to vote.

I was back in Australia for the election around about 1996 (sorry - I can't remember exactly) and went in to vote with a friend of mine. I was surprised and disappointed to find that my name had been removed from the electoral roll. I honestly felt that something important had been taken away from me. Thanks for providing this opportunity to allow me to ask for it back.

Please let me vote in my country.

Yours sincerely
Andrew Best