

SUBMISSION NO. 27

Joint Standing Committee	Electoral Matters
Submission No.	27
Date Received	13.3.05

ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIAN
CHRISTADELPHIAN ECCLESIAS INC

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The Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Suite R2.105 Telelift 10.3,
Parliament House, CANBERRA, ACT 2600.

Dear Secretary,

Re. The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral inquiry into the conduct of the 2004 Federal election and matters related thereto.

The Association of Australian Christadelphian Ecclesia welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Joint Standing Committee's invitation to make a submission to the enquiry into the 2004 Federal election.

Christadelphians have a long standing conscientious objection to voting in political elections and referenda. While not objecting to the process of voting as such, Christadelphians object to being involved in the system of government.

We believe that a Christian's citizenship is in God's kingdom and not in the kingdoms of men. Voting is seen by many citizens of a country as being one of the highest levels of involvement a person can have in government. We would agree with this and therefore under the Electoral Act, we decline to vote in Federal, State and Local Government elections.

The Christadelphian community reconfirms its objection to voting in political elections and referenda every two years at its Biennial Conference where the following motion is voted upon:

That this ... Australian Christadelphian Conference at ... reaffirms the Christadelphian objection to participation in politics and voting in political and Local Government elections and referenda on the grounds of their religious convictions.

This motion is invariably passed unanimously and forwarded to each jurisdiction in the Commonwealth.

Following each Federal election, members of the Christadelphian community receive letters from the Electoral Office seeking reasons for their not voting. On almost all occasions the reasons provided by members of our community are accepted by the Electoral Office.

On behalf of the Christadelphian community, the Association of Australian Christadelphian Ecclesias wishes to express its appreciation for the manner in which enquiries for not voting are made, and that our conscientiously held beliefs are respected.

Yours faithfully,



John Quill
Secretary