

Dear Sir,

Enquiry into the Conduct of the 2004 Federal Election

The purpose of this Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) is to again draw attention to looseness in the current electoral system which continues to provide opportunities for multiple/fraudulent voting, perhaps by any dishonest voters also using provisional and postal voting procedures and inadequacies in achieving the integrity of the roll using CRU procedures for accurate roll maintenance.

Valid identification of eligible voters at enrolment and at the polling booth is still not incorporated in the Australian electoral system.

While legislation dealing with steps to achieve proper identification at enrolment was passed in the Senate in June 2004, it is understood that this legislation will not be proclaimed until later in 2005.

However, nothing has yet been put forward to deal with proper identification at the polling booth. Wby not?

A review of a small portion of the electoral roll for the Parramatta subdivision of the Parramatta electorate has revealed discrepancies. Parramatta was selected because it was a marginal electorate which had hundreds of invalid addresses on the roll prior to the 2001 election.

Similar discrepancies have been found in other electorates which are sufficient to put a dent in the authenticity of the results of the 9 October 2004 election in some of the marginal electorates.

There appears to be some validity in the remarks of the then Special Minister of State, the Hon. Chris Ellison, in a press release on 30 August 2000 that CRU "was a half hearted patch up job that will do nothing to prevent enrolment fraud."

Report on Parramatta attached.

Yours sincerely,

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W. Bruce Kirkpatrick