

From: Robert Lawton

Message:

To: The Inquiry Secretary, Ms Samantha Mannette, JSCEM

Dear Ms Mannette,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2010 Federal Election.

I am an Australian citizen living in Adelaide, SA.

I have spent long periods living outside Australia - namely August 2002 - January 2005, and May 2006 to January 2009. I am likely to retire overseas, probably in the mid 2030s.

I am currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

My experiences with the Australian federal electoral system while offshore are as follows:

I have always been careful to register as an overseas voter when leaving Australia - but I know many people who have not been so careful and have been disenfranchised.

Australians of all ages now spend far more time abroad and as travel for work purposes becomes more common, more Australians will join the disenfranchised.

Please consider the situations of other countries' citizens who travel abroad - disenfranchisement is usually not quite so easy.

Regards

Robert Lawton