

From: Fiona Jackson

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 South Korea.

I have been living outside Australia since early 2001.

I am/am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll, having been taken off without any communication or warning.

My experiences with the Australian federal electoral system while offshore are as follows: I discovered I was no longer on the electoral roll when I tried to vote in the 2007 election, and was informed that I had been crossed off it due to being out of the country for some years.

I would like to make the point that while it may (or may not) be fair to allow non-resident citizens to vote, I do believe that if it is the citizen's responsibility to vote - then it is the AEC's responsibility to inform people they will be struck off (through their last known address).

Many foreign residents do register with their embassy and it could surely not be too much trouble to ask each embassy to at least email those registered to pass on this information (in cooperation with the AEC).

If non-residents should be subject to taxes, then the state ought be liable for at least attempting to communicate with its taxpayers such a basic right.