

**Read, Shane (REPS)**

**From:** David Hudson [hudsonco@globalnet.co.uk]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 July 2002 3:39 AM  
**To:** JSCEM@aph.gov.au  
**Cc:** hudsonco@globalnet.co.uk  
**Subject:** Submission

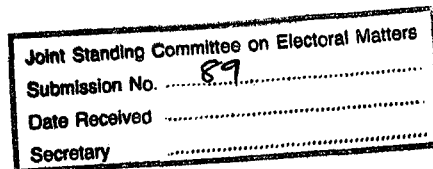
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**Message:**

**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 am an Australian citizen by birth having been born in 1950 and educated to tertiary level in Australia. I have resided overseas since 1978. My last Federal registration was in the electorate of Melbourne.

However, when in the November 1999 referendum on the proposition of Australia becoming a republic, I tried to cast my vote at the Australian High Commission in London, I was informed that my name was no longer on the electoral roll and I was therefore denied the right to vote.

I visit Australia every year or two and all of my family, apart from my wife and children, reside in Australia. I own a legal practice in London which is instrumental in contributing to the Australian economy through the provision of legal advice and assistance on Australian legal issues, particularly in the fields of commercial, corporate, trade & immigration and probate matters.

It is my intention to return to Australia to resume residence when I eventually retire from legal practice.

Through regular contacts which I maintain via family, clients and friends and through research conducted in my legal practice, I keep in touch with Australian public affairs and issues.

My name has been removed from the electoral roll in Australia without my knowledge or consent and in view of my strong continuing links with Australia, through my upbringing, family and nationality, I feel incensed that I have been effectively disenfranchised in the country of my birth.

In the context of modern communications and ease of travel in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and considering the volume and value of business transacted overseas which is of benefit to Australia, I consider it inappropriate for a country such as Australia which prides itself on its democratic foundations, effectively to deny its overseas citizens the right to participate in the democratic processes of the nation. In my submission it should be possible for all overseas Australian adult citizens to

maintain or renew their registration as Australian voters at any time, provided they continue to hold Australian nationality. The facility for doing so should, in my opinion, be made available both in Australia and through Australian overseas posts.

Yours faithfully,

David Hudson