

From: geoff horton
Sent: Wednesday, 1 December 2010
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: 2010 Federal Election Review - todays advertisement in the Australian Newspaper

Chair of committee and members;

I wish to have considered by the review committee 2 questions, firstly that of Australia abandoning compulsory voting, as I contend it is anti democratic to compel people to exercise a right, (the same reason the Netherlands used when they abandoned it) and that having the right to vote is no different to having the right to free speech.

There should be no compulsion to use either right and every opportunity to do so should one choose.

The UK, USA, India, Canada are among the major democracies with non compulsory voting, we should be counted in that group rather than in with Argentina, Brazil, Cyprus, Ecuador, Fiji, Mexico, Nauru, Peru, Singapore, Turkey and Uruguay as countries with fines, sanctions or other penalties.

The second issue that I believe would modernise our electoral system and lead to much greater efficiency is that of electronic voting. It would provide an almost instant outcome, allow people absent to use the system at the same time as everyone else (or pre polling) and save money and resources. It could be tied to Medicare numbers to prevent fraud whilst allowing random audit very easily.

Yours truly

G.H.Horton