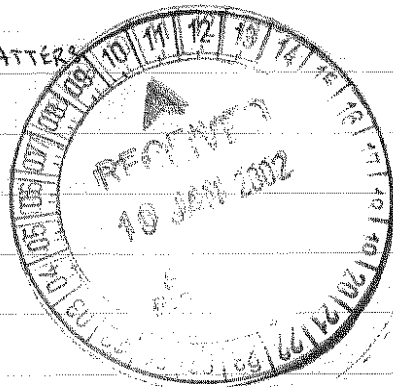


(08) 93982029

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECT. MATTERS

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

CANBERRA. ACT 2600



UNIT 1 - 180 HICKS ST,

LOSNEILLS. W.A. 6110

13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2002

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have already wasted a stamp, with no result from Aust. Elec. Comm. & I honestly feel it will be the same with your Committee. I get very cross at election time with all the advertising saying voting is compulsory. Only getting our name crossed off & receiving the Ballot papers is compulsory, then we can scribble on them or do anything on them & put them in the box to be counted as informal votes. Its about time who ever is in control listened to people of Australia as I have an many years. Many want votes because their votes & swapped from one party to another when their Candidate does not win. If our Candidate does not win then its votes should be dead. But we know why this does not happen, the major parties usually get in on preferences. If it was changed I am quite sure you would have less informal votes, from all the conversations I have heard over the years. Many people do not like voting for a Candidate to find a party they do not like gets in, on preferences.

I do not expect anything to change but at least I am letting you know what many people say, but they wont take action.

Yours sincerely  
Mew. Pitman.

(MRS. PITMAN)

|                                               |             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters |             |
| Submission No.                                | 49          |
| Date Received                                 | 25/6/02     |
| Secretary                                     | <i>Sahm</i> |



In reply please quote

91/002

Contact Officer

Ian Stringall

Postal address:  
GPO Box 9867  
PERTH WA 6848

Location address:  
28 Thorogood Street  
(Cnr Hawthorne Place)  
BURSWOOD WA 6100

Telephone:  
Head Office: (08) 9470 7299  
Fax: (08) 9472 3551

Mrs Pitman  
1/180 Hicks St  
Gosnells  
WA 6110

Dear Mrs Pitman,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 December 2001 concerning compulsory voting and the preferential voting system.

The Australian Federal Parliament, not the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), is responsible for enacting laws relating to the conduct of federal elections. It has done so in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (CEA).

Section 245 (1) of the CEA states "*It shall be the duty of every elector to vote at each election*" and section 245 (15) states "*An elector is guilty of an offence if the elector fails to vote at an election*".

It is not simply a case of an elector having their name marked off the Certified List of electors. An elector must receive the ballot papers issued to them and proceed to a voting screen to mark these ballot papers. However, because the voting process is secret, the AEC has no means of ascertain how the vote is marked, or indeed whether the ballot papers have been marked at all, before they are placed in the ballot box.

Section 240 (1) states that "*.....a person shall mark his or her vote on the ballot paper by:*

- a) *writing the number 1 in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom the person votes as his or her first preference; and*
- b) *by writing the numbers 2,3,4 (and so on, as the case requires) in the squares opposite the names of all the remaining candidates....."*

The Parliament has provided for full preferential voting and made amendments to the CEA as recently as 1998 to remove any doubt that the law requires "full preferential voting".

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) reviews electoral procedure and legislation after each election. This Committee then recommends changes to the electoral legislation to the Government. While this Committee is yet to be established following the recent election, it is expected that it will be once the Parliament resumes in the New Year. You may care to write to this Committee suggesting changes to the legislation.

The address of the JSCEM is:

The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

Please do not hesitate to contact this office on 9470 7299 if you require any further assistance or information.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Moyes  
Australian Electoral Officer  
for Western Australia

21 December 2001



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS

4 June 2002

Mrs Pitman  
Unit 1 180 Hicks Street  
GOSNELLS WA 6110

MR ROWE

I GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR MY LETTER TO BE USED  
AS A SUBMISSION

Dear Mrs Pitman

Mrs. Pitman

**INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE 2001 FEDERAL ELECTION**

Further to my letter of 9 May 2002, I am writing to advise you that the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters has commenced an inquiry into the conduct of the 2001 Federal election. The terms of reference are:

*That the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters inquire into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2001 federal election and matters related thereto.*

If you wish, your letter can be considered as a submission to the Inquiry. In making this decision, you should be aware that the Committee usually makes public the written submissions it receives and that submissions attract parliamentary privilege. I will require your written confirmation if you wish your letter to be considered as a submission. Alternatively, you may wish to make a separate submission to the Inquiry.

Please find enclosed a leaflet containing information on the preparation of submissions for committee inquiries, and some specific information in relation to this Inquiry. In preparing a submission you should be aware that submissions attract parliamentary privilege and that the Committee usually makes public the written submissions made to it. When preparing a submission, you should seek the concurrence of the Committee before releasing it to other people. The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite some authors to give evidence at a public hearing. Further information can be found at the Committee website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/index.htm>

Submissions must be lodged by **Friday 5 July 2002** by e-mail to [JSCEM.Reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:JSCEM.Reps@aph.gov.au), or may be sent to:

The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

If you require further information, please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2374 or send an e-mail to [JSCEM.Reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:JSCEM.Reps@aph.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**Trevor Rowe**  
Committee Secretary

