

Secretary,
Senate Inquiry into 2013 federal election.
Parliament House, Canberra, 2600, A.C.T.

14.2.14

Following are some thoughts I have on the 2013 federal election, in no particular order.

- The Australian Electoral Commission should be given extra money to fund more regular advertising campaigns to get people enrolled to vote. Maybe as well as advertising in daily and local newspapers they should also advertise more in foreign language papers for citizens whose first language is not English. Also perhaps people could be employed in each state to go to all secondary schools to make sure year 12 (and year 11 ?) students become enrolled (and leave posters). They could also visit large workplaces to both talk with people and leave posters.
- I think it's a disgrace that over a million eligible people are not enrolled, and an indictment on our successive governments that more has not been done to improve this situation.

Having the right to vote should be instilled both in children in the school curricula and in all advertising, that it is a wonderful privilege and not to be dismissed. People need to be taught how to fill in the forms. People in other countries regularly die to obtain the popular voting rights we have. People in positions of power, such as radio presenters (and politicians!) should not be allowed to campaign to get people to either not vote or to vote informal, as I have heard some do from time to time.

- I think a law should be passed banning current and potential members of parliament, both at state and federal level, all houses, should be banned from asking people their previous and future voting intentions. As we have secret ballot it is no-one else's business. Migrants or ill-educated people might think that if an MP asks how they voted they have to answer. I was furious that I was asked twice last year by Josh Frydenberg in 2 supposed 'community surveys'. The AEC currently does not have the power to stop such questioning.
- Something needs to be done about the way we elect senators.

Senator Nick Xenophon is on the right track, but I consider we should do away with above and below the line voting and just expect people to vote for their favourite 6 people. This would both cut down on counting time later and there'd be less possibility of error.

To cut down on the number of individuals or strange parties wishing to stand for parliament, much as I don't want to discourage democracy, maybe we should consider both increasing the cost (say \$1,000 instead of \$500), and the number of supporters, say 1000 ?

- My son thinks we should change the voting of the House of Representatives to proportional representation.

Lorraine Bates (Mrs),