



Submission
re.,
The Commonwealth Electoral Amendment
(Above the Line voting) Bill 2013
to the
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
House of Representatives
CANBERRA

By Dr Dallas Clarnette

I submit to you the following views.

First, that the present system used for senate voting is extremely unwieldy and cumbersome, and to many, probably quite exasperating, but could be improved and implied if,

- (a) The present above-the-line voting was replaced with the requirement that every box above the line was ticked in order of preference. This would prevent candidates from parties with only a hundred or so supporters being given unwarranted oxygen without preventing them from contesting the election.
- (b) The present alternative, allowing voters to number every box below the line is retained. The voter's right to dispose of his vote in the most thoughtful manner possible would thus be preserved.

I also believe that voters should be required to provide some ID before they vote. Today's news that the AEC has discovered a significant number of people voted several times at the last election, one person doing so 15 times! Surely in this day of electronic systems, every voter's ID could be/should be verified before they vote?

Finally, as one who has been active in supplying how to vote cards, I say that the electoral process would be vastly improved if

- (a) How to vote cards were prohibited; and
- (b) HTVCards were replaced by parties being required to provide at polling booths a large placard (to specified dimensions) stating how that party recommends the voter votes. Voters could check the placards of each party and make their mind up, without carrying wads of paper with them. This would save some trees!! And reduce costs to the nation as well.

Respectfully submitted, this 26th day, February 2014