

Debra Mieth

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission 120  
Date Received:

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**Re: Electoral Reform**

**Dear Members of the Committee**

Herein is my submission about problems and solutions regarding the Australian Electoral Commission and electoral processes. In the past I have personally witnessed electoral corruption amongst AEC officials and politicians during elections. Their ways are many and varied. Changes cannot come too soon.

Those politicians who cheated the process should today be in prison. Former MP Warren Pitt is one such. In relation to his corrupt activities during the 2004 Queensland State Election, I made complaints to: the Crime and Misconduct Committee, the AEC, and the Queensland Parliamentary Committee which at the time was stacked with Mr Pitt's Labor MPs. Consequently, nothing was ever done about the crimes they all committed by ignoring or covering up the electoral corruption.

This of course leads me to wonder how many governments and members of parliament in Australia have won seats illegally. Democracy is somewhat of a farce while these loopholes remain.

Therefore here are problems of which I am aware and their obvious solutions.

- 1. The names of dead people remaining on the electoral roll, which allows certain groups to use these names to vote illegally, should be removed using: the monitoring of death notices or notifications from State Offices of Births, Deaths and Marriages.**
- 2. Members of political parties should be excluded from any employment with the AEC to avoid conflict of interest. Even an idiot could see that.**

3. **The AEC must not be involved in predicting results or directing preferences and communicating such to the polling booths prior to elections. This practice is surely obviously illegal.**
4. **Electoral results or predictions for the eastern Australian states must not be published before the completion of voting in South and Western Australia.**
5. **All voters must produce identification before being permitted to cast a vote to eliminate multiple votes by one person, often in the name of somebody else. Isn't this obvious?**
6. **Polling booths in each electorate should be linked by computer so that when a name is crossed off, it is crossed off in every booth to eliminate one person voting multiple times at different booths.**
7. **Ballots should be initialled or marked in some way to make them formal when given to the voter. Any un-initialled ballot papers found during counting should be deemed informal.**
8. **All party scrutineers must be provided by the AEC with a list of the names of all polling booth officials and their initials to verify initialled votes, and in the case of disputes during counting to enable scrutineers to make complaints about specific officials afterwards if necessary.**
9. **Scrutineers or security guards must accompany the ballot boxes of cast votes to wherever they are taken to be counted or stored with names of the electoral officers managing the boxes. Nothing must take place with these boxes without scrutineers or security being present. The delegated electoral officers are accountable for those boxes of votes.**
10. **The use of pencils to write on ballots papers must be banned. Biro's should be used. Personally I always take my own in a totally different colour that cannot be tampered with. By being erased or changed.**
11. **Sturdy metal boxes should be used to cast and store voting ballots instead of flimsy cardboard.**

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12. Ballots should be colour-coded for each voting booth to enable ballots to be accounted for and matched to the booth in which they were issued and cast. Votes therefore cannot be moved between booths.
13. All pre-poll and postal votes should only be counted with scrutineers present.
14. Security should be provided at all polling booths to keep electoral staff accountable.
15. Political parties or candidates should not be allowed to mail electoral campaign material with applications for postal votes.

**Yours faithfully**

**Debra Mieth**

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