

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	143
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Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>

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

I would like to comment on the following situation that occurred during the 2001 election when I was denied the right to place a secret ballot.

I am registered as a silent voter with my address not shown on the electoral role.

I was shocked when I was forced to place my ballot papers into an envelope & then write my name & address on the outside of this envelope.

When I objected to this I was told if I wanted to vote this was how it was to be done & no-one would look at my vote when the envelope was opened.

I told those on duty that I was being denied my democratic right as a citizen to place a secret ballot - a fundamental right in any democracy, but to no avail.

Suggestion:

Once my name was marked off the list, I could fill in a form with my address (to cross reference later) & this could be placed into a separate box - but I should then be able to place my ballot papers into the same box as all the other citizens entitled to vote do.

I hope the system is changed before any other election.

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret Frost