

SUBMISSION NO. 33

Miskin, Sarah (REPS)

From: bstubbs@bigpond.com
Sent: Friday, 11 March 2005 2:12 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: Compulsory Voting

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	33
Date Received	11-3-05
Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Dear Tony Smith, Chairman,

I strongly object to your view that Compulsory Voting should be abolished. In my view, it is the very reason why Australia has such a strong democracy. Laws compel Australians to do many things for the protection of themselves and others eg not murdering anyone, wearing seat belts. Compulsory voting also protects our rights and freedoms in that it makes it more difficult for unscrupulous politicians to use covert practices to discourage certain people from voting whilst facilitate voting by electors who favour their policies. Your motives are questionable.

I am surprised that members of the Liberal Party who, on the whole, argue against changing our Constitution to replace the English Monarch with an Australian Head of State would argue for such a fundamental change to our rights as to remove compulsory voting from our electoral laws.

I agree with the points made by Daryl Melham in the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader, February 24 2005:

€ the strong voter turnout resulting from compulsory voting ensures that the results are credible (given other anomalies in the system) € it is less expensive than say, the American system, thereby not giving the extremely wealthy (individuals and corporations) undue influence € we are only compelled to register and attend a polling booth, not actually vote - given that there are times when there is little choice between parties.

As well, because they are compelled to vote, I believe that more people than would otherwise, do take note of political campaigns and attempt to make a valid decision as to where to direct their primary vote and preferences.

I would like my views conveyed to the Committee.

Yours faithfully
Beverley Stubbs
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