

From: Fiona Isobel Jackson Sent: Thursday, 1 May 2008 1:52 AM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: Submission

To: The Committee Secretary, JSCEM

Dear Sir,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election.

I am an Australian national who has been living in South Korea for over seven years. I have voted in all federal elections since I was old enough to do so, and take doing so very seriously.

Before the last election, I used the Southern Cross Group's link to the AEC website to check my enrollment in the Victorian seat of Flinders. To my shock, I had been taken off the electoral roll. I called and wrote to the AEC and confirmed that this was true.

The AEC informed me that after the 2004 election, my data was apparently cross-matched with other data and I was deemed to have left Australia and was struck off the electoral list.

My permanent address is my mother's, and she keeps any correspondence that arrives for me in a file. I visited Australia this January and contrary to what the AEC said, there was no letter informing me of my changed electoral status.

It seems that I should have converted myself to an "overseas voter" however I had not heard of that category, and had always duly traveled to the Embassy in Seoul to vote. However, by the time of the 2007 election, I had been gone too long to enlist as this type of voter.

I strongly feel that if the AEC have the power to strike citizens off the roll, it is incumbent upon them to bear the responsibility of informing people.

While I am not a taxable citizen of Australia, I was for a long time before leaving and will return to be one in approximately two years. Unlike many people I know, I take the issue of voting very seriously: enough to call and write to the AEC to clarify the situation.

It seems that I can no longer vote in any future referendums or elections, if I continue to live abroad. By not informing me that I had been struck off the roll some years ago, I feel politically disenfranchised and deeply unimpressed with a system I formerly admired.

I hope this committee can address these concerns and rectify this situation.

Sincerely
Fiona Isobel Jackson