

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 January 2013 7:20 PM
To: Electoral Reform
Subject: Electoral reform

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you with the utmost concern after reading and hearing most of the proposed electoral changes this LNP Government wishes to introduce into our society. I see (after finally navigating through the Department of Justice and Attorney-Generals' web-site) you have asked for discussion and divided it into two sections. Which I am more than happy to address.

Part A: Political donations, public funding for elections and election campaign expenditure: Firstly I strongly DISAGREE with ANY PUBLIC MONIES being spent on ANY ELECTION CAMPAIGN. The ONLY way I see as public monies being spent and ably justified on election campaigns is when political debates on party policy is held (well at least should be) on ABC TV, and of course for ballot papers, and the employment of peoples for the actual election day. I think the LNP had to explain certain discrepancies between donations and favours received by those people, this should not justify the LNP trying to legislate where other parties can and cannot receive their donations from. As long as people know where their money is going that should be all that matters and no new legislation needs to be put into place regarding this. Maybe there should be a cap on campaign expenditure and/or a certain percentage of whatever a political party spends on their campaign they have to donate to maybe a worthy cause in Australia that needs help like Mental Health, Homelessness, or our Flying Doctor Service.

Part B: I actually look forward to voting everytime an election is held. It is my right as an Australian. It also makes me feel like I still have some extremely minute say in this very beautiful country that I absolutely LOVE. I have also worked for the electoral commission, and am very aware of how our system works. An awfully long time ago I was a Youth Worker, and I have had my own children, and watched them grow. I have also done various volunteer work in and around my Community and believe I am very aware how many people think and feel. I realize (having worked in Local Council as Youth Worker) how hard Politicians actually do work - so please don't get me wrong when I say that many people have become fairly disillusioned with all politicians of late of all political persuasions. I believe voting is EVERYONE'S small chance to have their say - many don't see it this way, they see it as a hindrance, something they are forced to do. But by having voting compulsory at least everyone gets their small say, there's no struggle to get people to firstly get to the ballot box, let alone vote! You know last election my eldest daughter phoned me a few days before and asked me who she should vote for, I said to her have you been watching the news or reading the papers, not about the politicians she said its all so boring and they all talk crap! I said to her you know my Love these people are going to be representing your beliefs, your ideas, they will support you if you need them - just like our Councillor Graham Able does, O really she said, maybe I need to start listening and I gave her an unbiased account of who was running, and she was out voting when the doors opened. I personally believe there are far better things that you can be doing with your time as our representatives than trying to change a perfectly fine piece of legislation. As for political advertising maybe the laws should be changed - not the way you are thinking though. Maybe what they should be changed to is that NO PERSONAL ATTACKS ALLOWED, and ONLY POLICIES CAN BE ADVERTISED OF THAT PARTICULAR PARTY! So if its an LNP advertisement its content can only be about LNP policy! Please stop wasting time on things that don't need fixing/changing and really start using your time and energy on important things that really need your help and support to be fixed.

Yours Truthfully