

[REDACTED]

From: de Costa, Caroline [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 26 January 2013 11:45 AM
To: Electoral Reform
Subject: my views on the possible abolition of compulsory voting in Queensland

I wish to record my strong opposition to the proposal to abolish compulsory voting in Queensland.

I have spent much of my professional life working with Queensland women from disadvantaged groups in our society, and women living in rural and remote areas. I believe that if voting became non-compulsory women in these situations would be particularly disadvantaged. There would be no impetus for arrangements to be made to get them to polling booths by family or community workers, their views would therefore not be heard, and their needs would increasingly tend not to be considered by politicians.

I have lived in countries where voting is not compulsory and have discussed our system with many citizens of these countries. Our democratic parliamentary system is widely admired and many of these people have expressed a wish to me that they had similar requirements for voting. Compulsory voting makes our system of parliamentary elections even more egalitarian and democratic than those of nations with comparable systems of government.

Therefore I would urge that this proposal not be adopted.

Caroline de Costa