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**From:** Dianne Moll [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 2 February 2013 11:11 AM  
**To:** Electoral Reform  
**Subject:** Changes to Compulsory Voting  
To whom it may concern

We are very concerned with respect to the proposed changes to make voting in state elections voluntary as we believe it will result in a tendency for results to be dictated by special interest groups and would be less representative of the complete cross-section of Queensland's population. Most people are lazy by nature and, if not required to vote, many will abstain which means that their interests will not be represented. It could create a situation, similar to the US, where politicians spend more effort trying to motivate people to vote than in formulating policy for which to vote. We believe that if people are required to vote by law they are more likely to take an active interest in the political landscape and will be more engaged in issues that affect our state. It seems logical that the more people who vote the more reflective of the entire population the outcome will be and this is surely a desirable outcome.

We support the proposal of on-line voting as this would make voting easier for many and would improve the willingness of people to register and participate. Much of the feedback that opposes compulsory voting is based on the time and effort involved and this could easily be addressed by making it possible for people to vote from home. Surely if we can do our banking and submit our taxes on-line a similar system could be implemented for election simplicity.

In summary, although voting is a right for all citizens it is also a responsibility and not something that should be neglected because of voter apathy. A healthy democracy is one which most accurately reflects the will of all of the people and is not unduly influenced by minorities with a particular agenda. Our compulsory voting system is often held up internationally as an example of a superior electoral system and it would be a backward step to abolish it.

There have been no compelling arguments as to why the current system needs to be changed except that some people are disinterested and can't be bothered, which is hardly grounds for such a radical step. Please don't change what has been a successful system for such a long time (since 1915). If you are looking for positive changes to make to the current political system in Queensland reinstating an Upper House would seem a much more worthwhile objective. Qld is the only state without an upper house which improves executive government accountability. (See discussion paper "An Upper House for Qld - An idea whose time has come", Aroney N. and S. Prasser, Discussion Paper 1/07, (February 2007). Balanced representation has never been more important than at the present time when we have no adequate opposition.

Yours Sincerely,  
Dianne Moll & family