

From: John Edwards
 Sent: Friday, 4 January 2013 12:56 PM
 To: Electoral Reform
 Subject: Re abolition of compulsory voting.
 4 th.,January,2013.
 John Edwards,

SUBMISSION:

The argument that voting in Elections is NOT compulsory, but TURNING UP and REGISTERING to vote IS, (and this the FACT) makes the "compulsory voting" impost more stupid than it seems. Those who "turn up" then disfigure their Ballot Paper or throw it away are wasting the time of paid Polling Booth workers. A missing ballot paper causes a huge fuss for staff and forms must be filled out to account for missing papers. This would be avoided if the "voters" were not compelled to attend at all.

As for the paranoid opponents of abolition who claim that Democracy will be destroyed and power will be vested in the hands of the "RICH" minority or fringe "nutters", one must only look at the results from Great Britain, U.S.A., Canada and New Zealand, where there is no compulsory voting, yet these Countries seem to get along very well with none of them being held to ransom by minorities.....as is the case in OUR Federal Parliament right now.

Treasurer, Wayne Swan is quoted in The Courier Mail, 4-01-2013, " They appear determined to stop voters from having their say at the ballot box". This is populist rubbish and most irresponsible of a man in such high office . Nobody asked him exactly HOW abolishing compulsory voting would physically STOP voters. In fact, if we are trying to establish a more RESPONSIBLE voting public, voluntary voting should INSPIRE people to turn out.

Lack of RESPONSIBILITY in Australian society (The Nanny State) is a major cause of traffic infringements and accidents, unsociable behaviour and damage to person and property.

The more that the populous is FORCECD by law to do what The State orders, the more erosion of our civil liberties occur. We have enough of this already eg a person innocently carrying a knife in public can now be prosecuted. A grazier cannot shoot a kangaroo to feed the meat to his working dogs.....and look at the agony caused by the idiotic Flying Fox protection laws. It is unlawful to speed in your vehicle, to drive with a BAC of 0.05 or use a mobile phone while driving, but how many are CAUGHT doing the opposite and how many more don't get caught? Yet money is wasted after every election, chasing up people who failed to vote.

What would happen if The State enacted laws to FORCE people to, say, attend Church or adopt a healthier lifestyle. The outcry about destroying democracy would be justifiably horrendous.

NOBODY can prove that abolishing compulsory voting will destroy democracy or take away our right to vote.

Let the Government re-introduce into the Education System the teaching of RESPONSIBILITY over RIGHTS, self-pride and respect for the laws in place to protect the public from criminal action.

Some argue that Politicians will be forced to campaign to get people to turn out to vote rather than concentrate on Policy Issues. Again, if people WANT a particular Party or Politician to win, they will VOLUNTARILY attend a booth and VOTE. Even now the Federal Govt., wastes money on advertising, urging young people to enrol to vote, so

what's new. Surely their RESPONSIBLE parents would have done that job already. Abolition of compulsory voting would be a show of confidence in the maturity of the eligible voter and allow a little more freedom of choice, for a change. I commend the Attorney-General and the State Government for their forward thinking.

John Edwards.