
From: L.R. French
Sent: Monday, 21 January 2013 10:30 AM
To: Electoral Reform
Subject: Electoral Reform Comment

Thanks for the effort that has been put in to this reform. However, the move that has been included to remove compulsory voting is a retrograde step and should be no part of this reform.

It is indeed a responsibility of all people of voting age, in a democratic society, to take part in the running of the country. This is extremely important. It is a very small price to pay for being able to live in a democratic society. Immigration from Australia to another country is available to all who do not want to face up to their responsibility.

Removal of this process is a direct attack on the Democratic System itself and it should be dismissed out of hand, There was a time when all people did not have this small but important say in the running of our country. It was changed by mass support for the better system that we now have.

If people do not understand the process or the reasons for them, then they should be educated better. The answer is not removal of this important part of their freedom. You don't get anything worthwhile for nothing.

I have travelled to countries where there is no compulsion to vote and when people find that I am an Australian they have complemented me on the fact that we in Australia have compulsory voting. So much for the fact that some countries do not have it.

It is hard to get past the thought that this is a blatant grab for power. Political parties should not have the power to remove the say of all citizens.

Regards, Leonard French