

Submission to discussion paper on electoral reform in Queensland

By

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COMPULSORY VOTING

In a society where freedom prevails a person should not be forced to perform something they do not want to do. Rules should only be made to encourage people to show respect/care for one another. As long as a person does not hurt another person, they should be free to live as they want and should not have government interfering in their lives with unnecessary rules. We (Australians) espouse people's freedoms but it seems to be at odds when the government fine them for doing something that causes no harm to anyone else.

Voluntary voting could give a better government as there would be:-

- less donkey votes from disinterested voters
- less informal votes from disinterested voters
- random selection of candidates would be reduced from disinterested voters
- voters who are more knowledgeable and informed and wish to have a say in how we are governed will vote

Selecting an MLA in a random fashion or as a protest vote is not in the interests of good government.

My recommendation is that voting should be encouraged but be voluntary.

DONATIONS

Our Westminster system of government allows a citizen to select an individual to represent them in government. It does not give the citizen the ability to select a political party to represent them. Having an individual represent the voters from an electorate gives better democracy as they are more inclined to look after the interests of that electorate rather than follow party policies. Donations then, should be made by individuals only. No business, no union or other group type entity should give donations. Donations should be made by enrolled persons only and then only to a candidate/s that is/are standing within their electorate. All donations should be recorded. As only individuals can vote then only individuals should fund candidates. This gives better democracy as it avoids elected members being influenced by interest groups.