



Electoral Reform Submission

Confidentiality

Please do not publish my personal details (name & address).

Part A – Political Donations, Public Funding and Election Campaign Expenditure

Section 1

I support option A in which donations should continue to be capped. I also support option B, E & F – treat all donations the same and expand the payments that are considered donations to include membership fees and function attendance.

I oppose option C and partially oppose option D. Organisations (unions and companies) should be able to make political donations but should require authorization by their members/shareholders. There should not be a right for members to contract out of donations.

Section 2

I believe the current provisions are sufficient as they are now. However, I believe options B & C are superior to option A.

Section 3

The current caps on electoral expenditure should remain (option A).

I oppose options C & D as these entities may have different objectives, interests and members as the party. Additionally I believe the 'associated entity' limit in s197 of the act is sufficient in controlling the spending.

I support option E and oppose option F. The caps should only cover acts that directly influence voters. I also agree with the current spending exclusions by the ECQ. These are mainly administrative tasks that are not directly involved the influencing voting.

Part B – Other Options for Improvement and Change

Section 1

No opinion on this matter.

Section 2

I support options A and C for how-to-vote cards. I oppose option B because the ECQ should not be involved in deciding whether how-to-vote cards are misleading or deceptive.

Section 3

I do not believe that voters should be required to produce proof of identity for polling. Voter fraud does not appear to be a large issue in Australia. Additionally, there is no national identity scheme in Australia.

Section 4

I support the ability for voters to enrol on polling day. The more people who vote, the better. As stated in the discussion paper, I agree that the vote cast should only be counted once the identity and eligibility of the voter is established by the ECQ.

Section 5

I support option A with some hesitation. The ability to electronically vote should be reserved only for those who genuinely need it for their vote to remain secret.

Option B and C should not be implemented at all. Postal voting is currently sufficient for those who do not reside within 20km of a polling station. Additionally, electronic voting reduces the ability to scrutineer an election.

Section 6

I support expanding the grounds on which a person may apply for a postal vote. I believe the Australian Capital Territory's and Tasmania's model should be adopted; where someone may postal vote if they "expect" they may not be able to vote in person.

Option B should not be implemented. As stated in section 5, electronic voting reduces the ability to scrutineer.

I have no opinion on option C.

Section 7

Compulsory voting should remain and I vehemently oppose any efforts to remove it. Several reasons include:

More votes, the better. The government and its members should reflect the will of the majority, and this should apply to any democracy. A larger turnout will better reflect the will of the majority.

Policy, not participation. Optional voting would mean candidates and parties would have to spend more time encouraging people to come out and vote. This would result in them spending less time discussing policy and less on campaigning about the actual election issues. For example, in the 2012 US presidential elections, the websites of the candidates focused on providing visitors with instructions on how they can vote (when and where). Money was spent on providing shuttle buses from voter's houses to polling stations.

Section 8

The voting system used for Queensland State elections should be changed to full preferential voting. As frequently stated throughout my submission, the more votes the better. OPV can result in wasted votes occurring when a voter does not fully number the ballot. FPV means that every formal vote that's cast will have a say in the two-candidate preferred vote for their electorate.