

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 January 2013 8:34 PM
To: Electoral Reform
Subject: Keep compulsory voting

I've read through your paper and consider most of it just tinkering around the rules. Issues of political donations, truth in advertising, how-to-vote cards, date of enrolment etc are easily manipulated without making much difference to the fundamental issue of the need to retain compulsory voting.

My father was a Returning Officer for Wavell in Brisbane. He observed at every election that the only time that people became angry about voting was when they thought they might be denied the right to vote through various reasons.

Voting is a responsibility and a duty as a citizen. Removing this responsibility removes the value of holding citizenship.

If my preferred party is not elected at election time, I can accept the result because I know that the majority of citizens did not make the same choice as I did but the consolidated result truly reflects the opinions of my state.

However, if Queensland became like the USA where politicians are elected by such spurious things such as the number of people who can be bought by vouchers to vote or how many can be bussed into the polling booths or what the weather is like or whether there is a major league game that day, who could seriously accept the results of such an election? What a farce! What an ignominious result!

Jarrold, you need to listen to Queenslanders, Tinker around the edges, change the how-to-vote cards etc etc but never change the obligation of all citizens to vote for who represents them in parliament.
Jenny Allan