



From: Cedric Netscher
Sent: Wednesday, 9 January 2013 11:11 AM
To: Electoral Reform
Subject: Compulsory Voting
Importance: High

I am strongly in favour of compulsory voting in all elections as this is the only way that all voters can have a say in electing the government that they wish. Anyone who votes informally in any way or does not exercise their vote after registering at the polling place, has no right to criticize the elected government.

It is not a person's democratic right to refuse to attend a polling place. It is a citizen's duty to vote as it is for them to attend jury service or if the Federal government deems it necessary for them to perform National Service for the protection of this country. If a person commits an offence against the law, it usually is a requirement that they appear in a court of law. People who do not vote should receive heavier fines.

There are many places in the world where people are not allowed to vote democratically and would give anything to have our peaceful electoral system where a result is usually available within a few hours of polling concluding. Another very good point in the present system is the peaceful transition of government when results are certified. It was not so long ago when women were given the right to vote after a long disenfranchisement. The status quo must remain.

I do strongly feel that some form of identification is absolutely necessary. I have heard of cases where persons have voted at more than one polling place. Voters should produce a Medicare card, driver licence, passport or other legal document or better still, an identification number or code provided by the Electoral Commission. No extra staff would be needed at polling places as the Roll officers can check it.

Having an Electoral Commission identification, would open the way to institute electronic voting and a lot of voters would not have to attend a polling place and results would be quickly obtainable.

The above should be also instituted by the Federal government.

Queensland has the opportunity to lead the way!! Let's take it.

Cedric Netscher