



KYNETON BRANCH

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SUBMISSION

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Electoral Reform Commission
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
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The Kyneton Branch has been concerned for some time by the high level of informal votes in particular areas, especially those with a high concentration of citizens whose first language is a language other than English, in both Federal and State elections.

The Branch encourages the Commission to adopt measures to assist those to whom our voting system is alien. Measures such as:

- employing community liaison officers in the lead up to elections to engage with particular ethnic communities
- posting a voting pack to each elector which contains information on the electoral system and voting information in a variety of different languages
- providing ballot papers in languages other than English in identified electoral divisions

The Branch submits that the Australian Electoral Commission should conduct on-going public education campaigns to inform people about their rights to vote, to encourage eligible members of the community to enrol to vote and to cast their votes. It is of particular concern that such a high percentage of young people who are eligible to vote are not enrolled – we strongly believe that greater efforts need to be made in this regard.

We believe that it is a privilege to have the right to vote and every citizen should be given the opportunity to enrol and make a fully considered choice of who should govern.

Yours sincerely

Eric Dearthcott
President