

Submission for "Electoral Reform Green Paper – Strengthening Australia's Democracy":

I would like to voice my support for an amendment to the Electoral Act outlined in point one of paragraph 7.72 of the green paper. This point, if adopted, would remove the current discriminatory practise of only allowing those who possess a driver's license to enrol without a witness. The current system is somewhat discriminatory against those who choose not to drive, more so against those who, for various social reasons, may not have the opportunity to obtain a license and very discriminatory against those who are either blind or legally blind (such as myself) who are ineligible for a driver's license.

I possess a proof of age card which is issued (at least in Queensland, where I obtained mine) with the same amount of POI rigour as a driver's license - and, indeed, is also issued by the same department (Queensland Transport). I have always understood the purpose of the proof-of-age card to be a legal substitute for all POI functions of the driver's license but have discovered this not to be the case (the Electoral Act is a fine example).

Assuming the state jurisdictions issue the proof-of-age cards with sufficient POI rigour such as to maintain the integrity of the electoral role, I can conceive of no argument as to why one would not allow such cards to be used alongside the driver's license for POI when (re)enrolling.

I, therefore, strongly encourage that this amendment is adopted.

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