

Submission

Part 1

It is vital to our future that all Australians retain faith in all aspects of our democracy and in the democratic process, and that as many as possible participate in the process. Voting should remain compulsory.

Chapter 4 : The Franchise

4.59

Suggest that Point 4, a 'standing excuse for failure to vote' should apply.

4.61

As a principle as many people as possible should be eligible and encouraged to vote, thus having ownership of the end result.

4.62

- Permanent residents should be entitled to vote.
- Australian citizens living overseas should be entitled to vote if they wish.
- Voluntary enrolment for 16-18 year olds would encourage understanding of the democratic process.
- All prisoners should be entitled to vote (except those exempt for other reasons). Most prisoners return to society, and it is important that they continue to participate in that society, and not be further alienated.

5.1

- There should be greater harmonisation of voting systems.
- A system of single member House of Representatives seats and proportional representation in the Senate is appropriate.
- Continued compulsory Preferential voting in the House of Representatives is desirable, however all numbers need not be exhausted, e.g. 1 to 3 only.
- For the senate optional Preferential voting above the line should be introduced, as should optional Preferential voting below the line. Numbers should not be required to 'exhaust', e.g. 1 to 10 only should be required.

Chapter 6

It is essential that Electoral Management Bodies be transparently independent and robust.

We suggest that 6.32 is a desirable model for Australia.

Chapter 7

Enrolment processes should be designed to ensure maximum participation in Australia's elections.

Online enrolment and updates best facilitate this.

Chapter 9

Electoral Education should be mandatory in all Australian schools.
