

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

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The proposed exclusion of incarcerated peoples is morally wrong. Incarcerated peoples should have the right to participate in democratic processes. Their offending should not exclude them from having a voice on public matters that affect them, in particular election results. If incarceration is supposedly intended to rehabilitate people, how does excluding them from democratic processes assist them to reintegrate and contribute positively to society. Additionally, marginalised groups such as First Nations people, people living with mental health concerns, victim/survivors of trauma and abuse, and domestic & family violence victim/survivors are disproportionately represented in the incarcerated population. Denying their voice to be included in the democratic process further marginalises and silences them. We cannot become a state that silences selected voices based on behavioural choices which are almost always made out of desperation and trauma.