

From: [Jenny Stokes](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission re Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
Date: Friday, 10 April 2015 3:26:31 PM

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.
Legislative Assembly Queensland

Re: **Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015**

Salt Shakers, a Christian ethics organisation with readers across Australia, urges the Committee to recommend that the requirement that voters present ID when voting **be retained** in Queensland.

Investigations into state and federal elections have revealed that vote fraud occurs when voters are not required to present any ID.

In fact, in February 2015, it was revealed that **NEARLY 8,000 cases of voter fraud** (such as voting twice) in the 2013 federal election were referred to the *Australian Federal Police*. The disturbing thing is that so much fraud was detected – even more disturbing is that NO action will be taken against those people:

Article: [No voters prosecuted despite 7000-plus cases of suspected voting fraud in the 2013 federal election, SMH, 25/2/2015.](#)

Not a single person will be prosecuted for multiple voting at the 2013 federal election – even those who admitted to casting more than one ballot paper.

Australian Electoral Commissioner Tom Rogers said he was "disturbed" that of the nearly 8000 cases of suspected voting fraud passed to the Australian Federal Police, not a single case has been forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Of the 7743 suspect cases referred to the AFP, just 65 were investigated and not one will progress to conviction.

Mr Rogers told a Senate estimates committee that the file passed to the AFP included voters who had actually admitted to voting at more than one polling station and cases where the offence had been denied but there was supporting evidence that they had.

As an organisation, *Salt Shakers* has monitored ethical issues in our nation for more than 20 years.

We have made representations to various reviews of federal elections. In each of those submissions we have recommended that the electoral system be changed **to ENSURE that people have to present ID before voting.**

We would like to see that implemented in every federal, state and local government election.

The scenario we have posed is that not only can people turn up at more than one polling booth and vote – if they are inclined to do that, then they won't be too worried about lying as to whether they have 'voted before in this election'!

But they could also turn up multiple times and GIVE SOMEONE

ELSE's name – maybe a neighbour or someone down the road or even, as has occurred, the name of a dead person. So long as they don't vote at that person's local polling booth, the 'double voting' would not be discovered until much later, when the election has been decided.

The person would only find out when they receive a 'please explain' letter as to WHY they have voted more than once – they can only say, 'It wasn't me!'

At least requiring voter ID would prevent that type of fraud.

In fact we would like to see an electronic system in place, where once a person has voted their name is registered on an electronic roll as **HAVING VOTED** so that, if they do try and vote again, then the system will reveal that.

The system in Queensland appears to have some provision for those who either do not bring their ID to the polling booth, or those who do not have an ID document. In such cases, according to this account by ABC analyst Antony Green, they can fill out a declaration and still cast a vote...
<http://blogs.abc.net.au/antonygreen/2015/01/do-electors-need-id-to-vote-at-the-queensland-election.html>

We believe that provides an adequate alternative, where the *bona fides* of a voter can still be checked.

We urge you to retain the requirement for voter ID in voting in Queensland elections.

Yours sincerely

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