Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013 Submission 029

From: IZ jOHNSTON

To: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Subject: Submission to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on voter ID

Date: Wednesday, 15 January 2014 7:29:34 PM

I believe requiring ID before voting is an unreasonable and unnecessary step and I am wondering what the motivation is behind the proposal.

It will cause long delays at polling booths unless the government is prepared to pay many more polling officers.

It will be unfair to many people who do not have ID. They may not drive, have a passport or any other form of easily acquired identification. Reasons for this could include illiteracy, meaning thye are unable to fill in basic forms to apply for ID. They may not drive, so therefore have no drivers' licence. If they have never travelled overseas they will obviously have no passport.

Experience in the United States where this requirement has been introduced by some ultra conservative state legislatures has shown it seriously disenfranchises people who most need representation by a democratically elected government that will serve its purpose of helping disadvantaged citizens through distribution of resources.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Johnston

