

**From:** [Jean Hay](#)  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to the Electoral Reform Amendment Bill  
**Date:** Wednesday, 15 January 2014 8:14:57 PM

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I am writing to express my concerns about Attorney-General Bleijie's proposed bill to introduce mandatory ID requirements at voting booths.

Australia is a free and fair democracy, which means that every adult is free to vote and that governments have a responsibility to guarantee that all voters are able to vote easily. The proposed laws could disadvantage, or even exclude, voters in remote communities, Indigenous peoples, the elderly, the young, the homeless, the disabled, or those who move house frequently. Can the Committee guarantee that these proposed laws won't disenfranchise voters?

Further, these proposed laws would waste time and money; the process of checking voter IDs would make waiting times longer at voting booths; would require more staff to carry out the checks; and are hardly necessary since there is little evidence that they would reduce 'voter impersonation' or that this is a significant problem anyway.

These proposed laws are unnecessary and wasteful, and could discriminate against many members of the community. I urge the Committee to consider these consequences and reject Attorney-General Bleijie's proposal.

Jean Hay

