

**From:** [Clayton Bonser](#)  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed I.D. at polling booths.  
**Date:** Wednesday, 15 January 2014 8:48:18 PM

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I am writing to you to ask you to carefully consider the impact that requiring identification at polling booths may create.

Voting is mandatory under Australian federal law. If an eligible voter attends a polling booth, but is turned away because they do not have adequate identification, will they be prosecuted for failing to vote?

Will the Queensland government be open to prosecution or civil action for denying eligible voters their constitutional right to cast a ballot on the basis of inadequate identification?

I fear that those already most disenfranchised in our society will be further marginalised if they are excluded from such a fundamental social action as voting.

There are many people who will be potentially disadvantaged by introducing identity proof requirements at polling booths. I am asking you to carefully scrutinise any proposal, and to oppose anything denying Australian citizens their most basic right, the right to free choice. After all, if a citizen cannot freely participate in an election, then any other "freedoms" are really privileges granted by an illegitimate government.

So, please stand up and do the Australian thing to ensure that every eligible voter gets a fair go at election time.

Yours faithfully,  
Clayton Bonser.

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