

From: [WENDY MARSH](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to Legal Affairs and Community Safety committee re: election identification requirements
Date: Thursday, 16 January 2014 11:43:52 AM

I believe in a democracy that must ensure all eligible people are free to vote. Governments have a responsibility to make it easy for people to vote. Can the committee guarantee that these laws won't lead to voter disenfranchisement as all people must have an equal opportunity to vote?

The proposed laws could have discriminatory effects on who is, and who isn't, able to vote - and the worst impact will likely be on those who live in remote communities, those who are elderly, young, disabled, homeless, or just move house frequently. Does the Committee know how what percentage of people from these groups may not be able to cast a vote if the laws are introduced?

The Attorney-General claims these laws will reduce 'voter impersonation' but there is no evidence that these proposals will actually reduce it, or that voter impersonation has ever made a difference in any election.

For a government claiming to be so concerned about reducing debt, have the real costs of these proposed laws been determined? My fear is that those who avoid voting because of the perceived 'red tape' and disenchantment with governmental powers will increase exponentially. This will undermine democracy.

WENDY MARSH

