

From: [Simon Chinner](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the Electoral Reform Amendment Bill.
Date: Thursday, 16 January 2014 12:05:30 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to submit my thoughts on the Electoral Reform Amendment Bill.

Firstly what evidence is there that 'voter impersonation' at polling booths is occurring and if so to what degree. I am not aware of any evidence this is happening and no data on the numbers involved seems to exist.

Our Democracy is a sacred thing, we are bound by laws to cast our votes and have a democratic right to be free to do so. Any impediment to free access to an individuals right to cast a vote should be seen as an attack on those rights. Not every one has a drivers licence, passport etc. The less privileged will likely have a higher proportion of those with out ID's. This will have a large effect on those who live in remote communities, those who are elderly, young, disabled, homeless, or just move house frequently.

The Bill is, likely therefore, discriminating against a group of people on social grounds which I would hope is against State and Federal discrimination laws. I fully expect that 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?.

Considering the extra time it would take at polling booths the cost of the electoral process would increase dramatically as extra staff would be needed to do this job not counting the longer lines at polling booths.

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. More cost and time wasted for a problem that has not been substantiated to exist?

I submit that the Bill be rejected as it serves NO public good.

Yours Simon Chinner

Simon Chinner

