

From: [Lenore Keough](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission: Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013
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I do not support the Queensland Government's proposed electoral reforms pertaining to the requirement for voters to produce identification before being allowed to vote.


A range of negative consequences can be readily foreseen:

1. The introduction of identification requirements will disenfranchise a range of legitimate voters who may not be able to produce the required identification on voting day. These voters are likely to include a range of groups in society who don't have easy access to the necessary forms of ID, such as indigenous people (many of whom don't have drivers licences or birth certificates), homeless people or those who move frequently (and don't have a fixed address for ID), young voters (who may not yet have applied for formal ID), elderly people (who may no longer maintain some of the required forms of ID such as drivers licences), etc. This impact on the right to vote will effectively be an act of discrimination against these groups.
2. Even following public education programs, there will always be voters who are not aware of the requirements and do not have ID with them on voting day, and these legitimate voters will therefore be denied the right to cast their vote.
3. The introduction of ID requirements in Queensland alone will lead to voter confusion during elections at different levels of government.
4. The process of voting will inevitably take considerably longer if IDs need to be checked. As a result, AEC staffing costs will be higher, productivity impacts on the broader population will be greater, levels of frustration and aggression in voter queues and booths will likely increase, and disillusionment with the political process will be unnecessarily amplified.

Given there is no substantial evidence of electoral fraud (or "voter impersonation"), the introduction of voter ID requirements (and all of the above foreseeable impacts) is completely unnecessary.

It can certainly be expected that should such a measure be introduced, significant numbers of genuine voters will be denied their right to vote due to failing to meet the identification requirements, and this will be more damaging to the political process than the vanishingly small risk of electoral fraud.

In a free and fair democracy the people should be encouraged to vote, and governments should facilitate them to do so by making the process as accessible as possible. The Queensland Government's proposal for voter unnecessary ID requirements will make voting harder, and should not be supported by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

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