Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013 Submission 163

From: Kathy Kassulke

To: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Subject: Submission to the Electrol Reform Bill
Date: Thursday, 16 January 2014 9:42:35 AM

Having worked with a number of disadvantaged groups over the years, eg indigenous people and people with a disability I am horrified that the government would seek to further marginalise these vulnerable people by making it even more difficult for them to have a say by casting a vote. If the government wants to spend its money in a fair and equitable manner it should be doing everything it can to support these groups to have their say and to cast a vote.

The government has already disbanded a number of programs that were established to assist these groups eg into employment and training. Is it just a coincidence that the juvenile crime rate in North Queensland has sky rocketed since these programs were cancelled. I had already left the government employment when this occurred so this comment is not just sour grapes on my part. I recall my taxation university lecturer talking to our class about the tax system in America and how he would much rather pay the higher taxes we have in Australia then live in a society where you get mugged in the street because of failure to look after the disadvantaged groups. This is one area where the government can definetly lift its game and a good start would be in making it easier, not harder, for these individuals to be able to cast a vote

