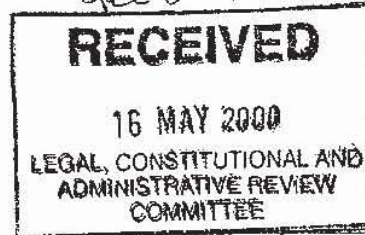


Submission No 47
Spec 23-1

The Research Director
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative
Review Committee
Parliament House, George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Fax: (07) 3406 7070



Helen Haining

15.5.00

SUBMISSION – LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND
FOUR YEAR PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

The argument in favour of four year terms, with a fixed minimum period of three years is a persuasive one in that it would allow more time for Government to implement policies to deal with difficult social issues. The wider community could also benefit from the extra stability that would flow on to the business sector.

However, the longer term could also result in Government becoming more distanced from the people they are supposed to represent. The longer term could be a source of frustration for a public wishing to oust a non-responsive Government.

I believe there should be a recourse to the voting public in situations where governments for any reason have acted contrary to the wishes of the majority of voters. Citizens Initiated Referenda would be one way the voters could be assured a voice. In places where C.I.R. is in place, it is rarely used, but voters have the reassurance of knowing that should they ever need to, the mechanism is in place for them to let the Government know the depth of their concerns.

I am not against four year terms for Parliament, provided there is a mechanism such as C.I.R. in place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Haining".

Helen Haining.