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**The Research Director,
Legal, Constitutional & Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
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23rd October 1998

To The Research Director

ELECTORAL REFORM ON HOW TO VOTE CARDS

I would like to respond to your current inquiry on Electoral Reform that came out of the Mansfield Decision by Justice Mackenzie.

The issue of "How to Vote Cards" is a matter that needs urgent reform. As a person who helps out handing out these cards in all elections, I am fully aware of many decrepencies and other problems that occur on Election Day.

Although some political parties fully authorise HTV's sometimes this can be misleading if the said party is actually competing for a vote and print two HTV's, one proper one for themselves and another one stating a vote for another party and the preference going to back to the party who printed the card. This can be very ambiguous with voters getting confused.

The other major concern is the radical waste of paper that happens on election day that is completely unnecessary. The amount of people from all walks of life who bitterly complain about the massive "paper chase" wastage or the ones who do not want to have handed any HTV's is extensive. As we head into another century, surely a more professional attitude towards elections, voters, and HTV's is overdue. It must be recognised that a lot of voters are intimidated at the polling booths with so many people running after them with up to 12 pieces of paper that just is not necessary.

To ensure that every political party or independent is fairly represented with the correct How to Vote Card then this committee should look very seriously into the banning of all HTV's at the polling booth and have just one poster inside each polling cubicle with all parties HTV's on display in the order of the ballot paper for all to see. This would cut out any bogus cards and be a great winner for the environment without all the paper.

I hope you look into this issue about the HTV's and take into consideration my comments about only one poster in each cubicle to overcome any misdemeanours.

Yours sincerely

Desiree Mahoney

