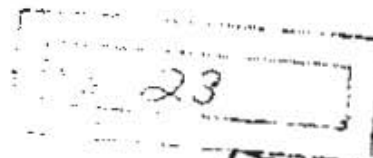


Jodie Martin

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
 Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 10:14 AM
 To: I.CARC
 Subject: Voices & Votes Response Form



SUBMISSION FROM

Name : Darren Kruck
 Age : 24
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SUBMISSION

What could the ECQ do better or differently to get its message across to young people?

Employ designers and marketing experts that are the same age as the voters the ecq is trying to reach. This means that the information could be noticed and would most likely be in the places that young people would see it. (Street press etc)

How could the ECQ make it easier for young people to enrol and become registered to vote?

Is it available online?

How could the ECQ make it easier for young people to cast their vote?

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Do you think more young people would vote if they could do so at any time in the week leading up to an election, without having to meet any special conditions to do so?

For sure. A week gives young people much more time to either (a) remember to vote or (b) realise that they are supposed to vote. Because, a lot of the time, unless a young person actively seeks the information about voting it is often very confusing as to what is happening and when.

Do you think young people could be disadvantaged if there was no opportunity to enrol after an election is called?

YES!!

Do you think improved civics education is a worthwhile reason for government to consider a change to fixed term elections?

Yes, but not only that, it also gives both the government in power, and the opposition a chance to plan their office from election to election, thereby giving even more opportunity to have measurable election promise outcomes.

Do you think young people would be more likely to vote if the voting system was changed so that candidates running on certain issues of particular interest to young people were more likely to get elected and have a voice in parliament?

Yes! I know for a fact that the reason a lot of young people don't vote is because, in their experience, it seems as though their voice is not heard. It's the whole "If it doesn't help, what's the use?" mentality. If the young people were assured of a chance at having their concerns and hopes voiced, it would definitely help.

Should the voting age be lowered to 17 or 16 years? Why or why not? If the voting age is lowered, should voting at the lowered age be compulsory?

Yes, it should be lowered. There are many mature and politically aware 16 and 17 year olds. But no, I don't think it should be compulsory until 18.

FOR STUDENTS : What worked well and what did you enjoy when you learnt about or experienced democracy in your school? What more could schools do to encourage you to value democracy and prepare you so that you are well informed and confident about engaging in democracy? OR FOR TEACHERS : How does your school approach civics education and practice democracy? How could students be better prepared to engage in democracy?

In my experience, this system is not working. At school, not many people care about student elections and/or councils. If anything there is a general 'tall poppy' contempt for the system and it's inerrant favouritism and buddy systems. This is certainly not the image of Australian electoral policies that one would want to promote. Visits to parliament, for students who have no interest in law or politics, can be about as interesting as watching paint dry and certainly do nothing to inspire the students to get involved. I would suggest that a touring programme be initiated in Queensland schools that ensures quality information control and is designed to meet students where they are at. It could possibly be staffed and/or designed by young people who know the culture and what will spark interest and passion in the students. After all, voting is an amazing privilege that is more often than not taken for granted.

How can political parties encourage young people's engagement in democracy?

By giving them a voice! Not just a chance to say what they want and then have it dismissed; but a political, influential and recognised voice! A system needs to be put in place whereby young people are able to have their hopes and concerns raised on a political level with the knowledge that what is raised will be given as much precedence as anything else that is raised in parliament. Of course, there would need to be processes in place to ensure the necessity of issues raised. But young people's democratic rights need to be recognised and acted upon.

How can politicians themselves restore the faith of young people in democracy?

Listen to what their electorate is saying instead of pretending to listen and doing nothing about it.

Have you used any of the government opportunities to voice your opinions about issues? How effective was it?

There is so much red tape that it is difficult to find out where and how to put your opinions forward.

10/10/2005

How do you think government should involve young people in the decisions it makes? What methods work best for you – face-to-face, web based/online methods or written?

Either face to face or web based. But clear web based. It's no good if the issues are hidden away in the depths of some random web page. The need to be clear, concise and advertised.

Which of the following activities have you carried out, or would you like to carry out?

Volunteering - Have done

Initiating or participating in a local youth project - Have done

Initiating or signing a petition - Have done

Attending a rally or protest - Have done

Taking part in a strike -

Being a member of a political party

Being a member of a trade union - Have done

Being a member of a student union - Have done

Being a member of a non-government organisation which lobbies government (e.g. The Wilderness Society, Amnesty International, Greenpeace) - Have done

Contacting a politician or local government councillor - Have done

Participating in a Youth Parliament -

Being involved in a Youth Council

Being involved in an organisation which seeks to represent the views of young people (e.g. Young Australian Rural Network) -

What assistance or encouragement do you need from government to take action about the issues you feel passionate about?

Seeing once in a while that an issue voiced by young people has been attended. Young people in the government instead of a generation that THINKS they know what young people want. Wouldn't it be better to have some young liasons within the government itself?

What role can families and friends play in getting young people active and involved with democracy?

They need to be educated themselves. Communication

What role can non-government foundations or community organisations play in getting young people active and involved with democracy?

By explaining the ways in which young people can have a valid voice.