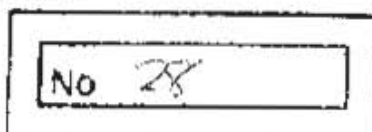


Jodie Martin

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2005 11:20 PM
To: LCARC
Subject: Voices & Votes Response Form

SUBMISSION FROM

Name : Brett Mansfield
Address :
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SUBMISSION

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

Parliament is a joke. They are like a bunch of kids. Change the message that voting sends for people so they want to enrol - instead of gimmicky advertising. People follow by example and the message of politics, not shallow awareness programs that have no weight.

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

There isn't really an easier way, unless people go on the role automatically and thus have to vote when they become of age.

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

Over the internet, with text messages, allow people to vote over a week period. Voting boxes set at certain places, and people have a week to hand in their vote. A councillor in Logan was saying that electoral voting allows a person to vote once and not go to a number of booths and vote a number of times. This will reduce fraud in the ballot system.

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?

Yes. Religion should play no part in voting. Australia is a christian-based-values country. people who live in the country should follow these values in democratic issues.

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

Some young people wouldn't even think about it. They have no interest in voting. Others wouldn't think about it until the election and so they would be disadvantaged.

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

Sounds like a load of shit (see question one)

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?

Yamrn right. of course. However whoever is in charge is not going to let that happen. Example is Pauline Hanson. Loved by the nation, sunk by political leaders. Proportional representative voting sounds good. It needs to be fairer so that minor parties have more of a chance, because they are not tuned into the people of Australia and are more likely to represent the voice of the people.

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?

Well I think they should set one adult age throughout the country, instead of being 16 to get a learners, 18 to vote, 12 to pay full price at dreamworld. I think an adult age should be 16 in this day and age. So yes, people should (under these provisions) be able to vote at 16. Until one age becomes precedent, I think people of age 16 and 17 should have the choice to vote. Make it optional.

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?

It was alright. I enjoyed getting out of school. I actually thought it was a waste of time. It made little sense to me and I felt very removed from the whole thing. I remember thinking what a waste of money was spent on the laviches (furniture, ceilings, carpet). Got to the point. What they actually do is they make it look like everybody is bullshitting everybody, all for the purpose of gaining power. You can't believe a word. That's the problem. I think schools should be open about the power-play that goes on, so that it looks realistic and they are not just trying to pull the wool over students' eyes. Otherwise schools lose their credibility along with politics. Civics education that involves students in the process of how democracy REALLY works, and how to get your say REALLY heard will increase confidence and participation.

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

I invite students write and voice their agendas. Have the letter that is replied respond directly to their letter. I wrote to Peter Beattie last month and he responded (with the issues that needed to be considered in that area - 17 year olds in adult prisons) and then I replied to each point on his letter and he (or his representative - but it was signed by him) sent EXACTLY THE SAME EMAIL BACK that he did the first time. obviously on a automated letter that implies he had not read either of them. How the F*ck is that going to encourage ANYONE'S engagement in anything???

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

Young want it to be fair and they want their vote to count. Many young people want to vote for minority parties, but that is a waste of time. Change the way the counting is done. Remove the media from the equation. the media manipulates anything to its own advantage (similar to a politician I suppose). Also, being credible, accountable and true to the campaign. Don't manipulate the numbers for their own purpose.

10/27/2005

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

Yes, I wrote letters. See question on engaging in democracy. Yes, voting for Pauline Hanson and having no impact. Now I am reluctant to waste my time.

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?

Web-based and online methods are answered by secretaries. So they are not worth the time they take to write. However, I understand the restraints of answering everyone face to-face. I guess a personal email would be a start.

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 -

Taking part in a strike - Would like to

Being a member of a political party - Would like to

Being a member of a trade union

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 - Would like to

Being involved in a Youth Council - Would like to

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

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

As mentioned previously, credibility, accountability and truth from the politicians. Other than that, I have no idea.

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

A person who is a family member, family and everyday person (who works) who takes on a leadership role in politics (such as Sir Ju and Pauline Hanson). Real Australians there for the real Australians. Everyday family members to express their views on politics. Have a go at being proactive and informed.

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

Show the evidence of what has been changed by showing the outcomes of where their efforts have paid off. Advocate on behalf of young people. Have websites that inform young people how to get involved, forums with politicians, spaces to have a say on pending issues. Hope that these are not just lip service.