

WOMEN'S ELECTORAL LOBBY VICTORIA

1 June 2010

Parliamentary Inquiry into the Functions and Administration of Voting Centres (including Joint Voting Centres) giving consideration to issues of Location, Accessibility, Participation, and Transparency.

Submission from The Women's Electoral Lobby Victoria Inc. (WEL Victoria)

Accessibility can relate to understanding English or the process of voting. WEL suggests all booths should have access to multi-lingual facilities.

Participation is mandatory and should remain so.

Compulsory voting is the reason we have such a fair process of government.

Compulsory voting protects women who may otherwise be pressured not to vote because they have domestic duties or some such excuse.

Social legislation is more likely to be promoted if the candidates recognise that women make up at least 50% of the electorate.

Registration is compulsory but migrants may not be aware of these rights and responsibilities.

WEL suggests an education campaign to alert citizens to their responsibility to register and to vote.

As more than 30% of the electorate is aged over 50 years, WEL believes that the exemption for voting over 70 years of age should be removed particularly for Local Government which is an area where policies may have major impacts on the elderly.

The only excuse for not voting must be a medical certificate.

Transparency is one of the most important factors in every election.

Electoral rolls should be online in every voting booth
If this were to be the system then when an individual presented at the booth, their name should be noted on that booth and shown on all electoral rolls so that no one could vote more than once.

All individuals should be required to provide identification before they are able to vote, whether pre-polling or on polling day.

Thank you for enabling WEL Victoria to participate in this discussion.

Kerry Lovering OAM
WEL Vic Convenor