

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I have been residing in London, UK for the past few years. During our time here we have voted in the WA state election, the federal election and the gay marriage plebiscite. Of those votes we cast only one was counted - the gay marriage plebiscite. This is because we were allowed to vote online. For both the state and federal elections we notified the AEC we were living overseas and applied early for our postal votes. Despite posting them back the day after we received them in London, they did not arrive in time to be counted (please see attached screenshot of the tracking receipt for the recent state election). As people who value our democratic right to vote it is incredibly frustrating to find out that even though we did everything right our votes still weren't counted.

The Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform has been tasked with providing recommendations for how electoral equality can be achieved for all citizens entitled to vote. With the outdated overseas postal voting system it is impossible to achieve this equality. I am sure that countless other Australian citizens living overseas have also missed out on having their vote counted due to the reliance on snail mail. In 2021 it is ridiculous that we are relying on such an old-fashioned system that is failing voters. The government clearly has the technology to allow people to vote online, as was evident with the gay marriage plebiscite, so it is baffling that this isn't being put to use for every election.

I ask that in your review of the electoral system of the Legislative Council you take into account the limitations of the postal vote system for overseas citizens. While votes cast by people in the Mining and Pastoral Region were worth 6.22 times more than those cast in the Perth metropolitan area, consider the fact that votes cast by people overseas were worth ZERO. How is that an equitable system?

I believe that one person should equal one vote. It is unfair that people living in less populated regional areas have more of a say in how the state is run. We don't want WA to end up in a similar situation to the United States, where smaller states control the outcome of the election. Of course it is important for regional people to have their voices heard, but it is completely unfair that their voices should count for more than others, just because they live in a less populated area. Geographic regions should be given a number of legislative councillors that is reflective of their population; a smaller population should receive less councillors and larger populations should receive more.

I hope that you will take these points into consideration when making your recommendations for changing the electoral system.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Ellison

Postal Vote Application Tracking

Mon, 18/1/2021 8:19pm AWST



Matched Pre-Roll Close

Your application has been received. It will be processed shortly after the electoral rolls have closed and the ballot papers have been printed. Packages are expected to arrive in early March.

Sun, 14/2/2021 7:30am AWST



Ready to Send

Your application has been accepted. Your voting package will be posted to you shortly.

Mon, 15/2/2021 9:18pm AWST



Sent to Elector

Your voting package has been posted. Please complete and return it as soon as possible, allowing for Australia Post delivery periods. Note, we are only able to commence processing returned postal packages from the Wednesday prior to Polling Day.

Tue, 13/4/2021 12:53pm AWST



Returned

We have received your ballot papers. Thank you.