

**Submission
No 1**

**INQUIRY INTO ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2007 NSW
ELECTION AND RELATED MATTERS**

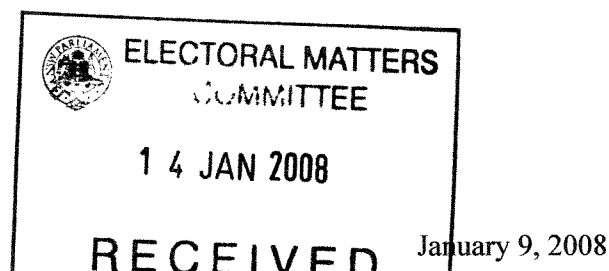
Organisation:

Name: Mr Peter E C Brun

Telephone:

Date Received: 14/01/2008

The Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
NSW Parliament
Macquarie St., Sydney 2000.



Dear Sir,

I am informed that you have called for submissions relating to the NSW State Election of March 2007. Accordingly I make the following submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D. E. C. 2" followed by a long, horizontal flourish.

I was the Liberal Party booth captain at the Vaucluse East polling booth at the 2007 state election. I draw your attention to the following:

1. Before the booth opened the officer in charge did not apply the seals to the ballot boxes in the presence of scrutineers. We may have been at fault for not being in the booth at the right moment, but I had told him I wanted to observe the sealing.
2. Questions were not always properly asked by the polling clerks. In some cases where voters produced their card, they were not asked if they had voted before. I pointed this out to the officer in charge who corrected the polling clerks concerned. Others voters, who did not produce their card were asked their name, at which point the clerk often proffered the address instead of asking for it. In some cases voters assisted the clerk by pointing to their name on the roll. In no case did I hear a clerk ask for the date of birth. When I told the officer in charge, he said if the clerk had identified the voter on the roll it was "unnecessary". Neither did the clerk really "have the time to ask this question". I understood that asking the date of birth was mandatory.
3. When the Electoral Commission had gone to the trouble of printing voter cards, why was it not compulsory to use them? There is no doubt that they saved time when voters did bring them.
4. Polling clerks did not keep a record of how many voters brought the card with them. Estimates by clerks of how many cards were produced ranged from 10-40%, but as none kept a record these are really only guesses. Surely this would be useful information at future elections.
5. Why were the cards not surrendered? An unscrupulous voter could have used the card a second time. One of our scrutineers found a card in one of the vote-marking booths. Again an unscrupulous voter could have used the card a second time.
6. There was a discrepancy of 25 votes in the final tally of ballot papers, but it was not discovered until after the used papers had been sealed into the appropriate bags for transport to the Vaucluse Electoral Office. As I got up at 4am that day, and been in attendance all day, I left the booth at about 8.30pm. Mr Bruce Kirkpatrick, who is 80 years of age and a diabetic, was our last scrutineer to leave and the discrepancy was not resolved when he left at 10pm. I imagine it was resolved in the end, but in my view, the used ballot papers should not have been sealed until the total paper tally was complete.

I would like to point out that the officer in charge was very helpful and our relationship was cordial.