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From: Inquiry into 2014 Victorian State Election POV eSubmission Form
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2015 2:03 PM
To: Electoral Matters Committee
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2014 Victorian State Election.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2014 Victorian State Election.

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Federal Director
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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The Australian Sex Party acknowledges the incredible work done by the Victorian Electoral Commission [VEC] throughout the 2014 Victoria State Election.

The VEC was extremely prompt and organised throughout the Election. They kept all stakeholders informed of upcoming deadlines and any changes that had occurred to their structure.

With regard to early voting, we found that our polling-booth volunteers were overwhelmed with the sheer volume of people voting prior to Election Day. We feel that the period in which people can vote early should be shortened so that resources are not depleted prior to Election Day.

Further to this, it was reported to us by those who take advantage of pre-polling, that they were not questioned as to why they could not vote on Election Day.

The Australian Sex Party proposes that the pre-polling period be shortened to 7 days in total. We believe the VEC should enforce their policy of asking that those who take advantage of pre-polling to provide a reason as to why they cannot cast their vote on Election Day.

We do not feel any changes should be made to voting structure, Group Voting Tickets or currently preferential flows, and how votes are currently counted - these systems allow for smaller parties to have a great democratic impact.

The Australian Sex Party would see any changes to the above as a direct attack on the chances of smaller and/or minor parties to have a voice in the Victorian political landscape.

Furthermore, we do not believe anyone should be granted an exception to vote, or not have to pay a fine for failure to vote, on the grounds of religious beliefs.