



4 June 2010

The Executive Officer
Electoral Matters Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

To whom it may Concern:

**Parliamentary Enquiry into the Functions and Administration of Voting Centres
– Kensington Primary School Booth**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry.

At the 2006 State Election it was brought to my attention that there was a need to re-establish a booth at Kensington Primary School. This booth was eliminated at the last state election. It should be noted that a booth at a different location named Kensington was used.

As a result of this renaming process the "Newmarket" booth was also moved to the boundary of the electorate shared with Essendon and was run as a joint booth. The new Newmarket booth received only 218 ballots while the relocated Kensington booth received 3171.

Anecdotally we heard that the Kensington booth had to send out for more ballot papers and there were certainly times when there were over 100 people waiting in line to vote.

The Kensington Primary School booth had been used for many years and is the one to which Kensington people naturally gravitate. It was used at the 2007 federal election where 2762 people chose to vote there.

The suggested booth is also much better placed to accommodate voters who live in the public housing blocks in Kensington many of whom have limited mobility. In the absence of this booth these voters must travel significantly further to cast their vote.

Given the above, I therefore ask that the Committee consider the reintroduction of the voting booth at Kensington Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bronwyn Pike".

Bronwyn Pike MP
Member for Melbourne