



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair)

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## Submission Cover Sheet

### Inquiry into Electoral Amendment Bill 2021

**Submission Number: 14**

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OFFICIAL

**January 28, 2022**

Justice and Community Safety Committee  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Committee Secretary and Members,

**Inquiry into Electoral Amendment Bill 2021**

Thank you for the invitation to have a say in the proposed Electoral Amendment Bill 2021 (the Bill).

I am writing to oppose the Bill that proposes to lower the voting age in Territory elections from 18 years to 16 years.

A survey finds socialism is booming in popularity among young Americans of 16 years and older<sup>1</sup>. Another survey finds majority of Australian youth favor socialism<sup>2</sup>.

Socialism has been a proved failure historically in countries such as former Soviet Union and China, regardless of how just it sounds and how moderately it starts.

According to the surveys, young people know little about socialism, let alone its disastrous consequences. If those 16-17 years old, without understanding what socialism means, cast their votes for the socialism doctrines, I wonder who will benefit from the voting results and who will bear the inevitable harm to the society.

The surveys also mention what drives the pro-socialism among the youth. It is likely due to the loss of industries and jobs. This is evidenced by the youth (aged 15-24 years) unemployment rate, 13.1% in ACT as per the Labour Force December 2021<sup>3</sup>.

The issue to be addressed is to create jobs for the young people, not to encourage them to vote at an age when they don't fully understand what they are voting for.

Yours sincerely

Zhenghao Dai

[Redacted signature block]

References:

1. <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/socialism-booming-popularity-among-young-people-survey-finds/11655582>
2. <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2018/06/25/poll-j25.html>
3. [https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/399983/LF.pdf](https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/399983/LF.pdf)