



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Electoral Amendment Bill 2021

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Submission

Lower the voting Age to 16yrs give them a voice, increase their representation, and increase accountability from the politicians

Voting is a fundamental right in modern- Day Democracy. Reducing age requirement to vote has over the years generated debates in various countries. In several countries, including Argentina, Austria, Brazil, and Ecuador, citizens can vote at the age of sixteen in elections.

Reducing voting age increases voting participation and seeks to bring equality in terms of representation and enhances maximum democracy as the results of every election would more accurate. Youths aged 16 and 17 should be able to influence the laws that affect their lives or their future provided they are given adequate and appropriate civic education.

Allowing them to vote will therefore enhance their opportunity to genuinely engage with the society in a positive and productive manner.

Young people aged 16 and 17 are active and contributing members of Australian society, who hold considerable decision-making powers regarding their own lives and who are required to meet a number of legal requirements. Extending the voluntary vote to 16- and 17-year-olds would be an instrumental step in assuring that young people are funnelling their political motivation into traditional civic avenues, that relationships between young people and politicians are strengthened, and that young people are treated as valued citizens. These outcomes would be positive for Australia's democracy.

Such electoral reforms will go a long way in cultivating societal engagement as it gives them a voice and a sense of responsibility after all they are already allowed to work and are able to consent to medical treatments. They should therefore be allowed to vote.



Youth Representative East Africa community Association.

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