

Sunday 3rd August 2008

LABOR'S INACTION ON ELECTORAL LAWS DISENFRANCHISE YOUNG MAYO & LYNE VOTERS

The Australian Democrats candidate for Mayo Andrew Castrique today slammed Labor's inaction on their election promise to change electoral laws to ensure that all new voters get the chance to enrol before an election.

"The current electoral laws mean that new voters effectively have only 2 full business days from the announcement of the by-election date (announced late on the 31st July) to the close of rolls to register to vote," said Andrew Castrique, Democrats candidate for Mayo.

"Existing voters who need to change their details are given a slightly longer time frame (until Friday 8th August) to register their new details."

"What this does is effectively disenfranchise young people who have recently turned 18, by not giving them a long enough time period to get their enrolment forms in."

"The Rudd Government promised at the last election that they would reverse the disenfranchising Howard Government electoral reforms, and so far they have not kept to their word"

"It is time young people were given a fair go by our electoral system so that new enrolments are allowed within the same time frame as those who need to change their details."

"I encourage young people to get in quick and enrol to vote before 8pm on Monday 4th August."

"Voting is one of our most important human rights and could be one of the most important decisions you make in your life," concluded Mr Castrique.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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...BECAUSE MAYO DESERVES BETTER