



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

BILLS

Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016

In Committee

SPEECH

Thursday, 17 March 2016

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

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Questioner
Speaker Collins, Sen Jacinta

Source Senate
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Senator JACINTA COLLINS (Victoria) (23:31): I would like to go back to the issue I was discussing earlier with Senator Xenophon and the minister in relation to Senator Rhiannon's concerns about penalties for those who might encourage people to just vote 1. I appreciate the responses to that, and particularly from Senator Xenophon, who has obviously tried to follow that through, but I think it would be helpful for us to confirm that it will be, under these proposed arrangements, lawful for someone to say, promote or advertise 'just vote 1'.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: It does not appear that you are getting an answer, Senator Collins.

Senator Conroy: They cannot even be bothered standing up and answering a question. It is pretty simple and straightforward.

Senator Cormann interjecting—

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: What? Oh dear! Maybe if I give the minister a few moments and move on to another matter while he further considers that answer.

Senator Conroy: The stupidity of that answer.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: It is not just stupidity; it would be—

An opposition senator interjecting—

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: It is disdain, but it is not just disdain; it is—

Senator Cormann: On a point of order: I have already answered that question on several occasions now. Senator Collins knows that. She obviously does not have a lot of material, so she is going through tedious repetition. Just asking the same question over and over does not mean that she is going to get a different answer.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Thank you. I do not know what world this minister lives in but I had not asked that question. The question I had asked was the question that Senator Rhiannon asked in the hearing about penalties. This is a different issue. The answer you gave in relation to penalties was to refer to the existing penalty provisions in the act. My question is whether promoting a 'just vote 1' case would be lawful.