

NEWSFEED



Mr Smith said that for this reason, internet voting seems to be the most attractive options for voters.

“As an election expert from the USA recently said to me: ‘when it comes to voting, folks would rather be online than in line.’”

However, the inquiry found that Australia is not in a position to introduce any large-scale system of electronic voting in the near future, without catastrophically compromising its electoral integrity.

“Over the course of the twenty hearings to date and in reviewing the 207 submissions received, after hearing from a range of experts and surveying the international electoral landscapes, it is clear that internet electronic voting is highly vulnerable to hacking,” said Mr Smith.

“In future, it is likely, given the turbo-advances in technology, that a system of online electronic voting could be delivered with acceptable safety and security.”

Mr Smith said there are other aspects of our voting process that should be brought into the modern electronic world; aspects that will not compromise the security, sanctity and secrecy of the ballot.

“At present, every electorate booth has a paper roll and when you vote your name is crossed off. With an interconnected electronic roll, when your name is crossed off and you are provided with a ballot, it will be simultaneously crossed off at every other booth, reducing the opportunity for multiple voting in your name.

“At the same time, we should start to introduce electronic scanning of ballot papers. This enables an electronic count, the results of which would be delivered minutes after the close of the polls. The same physical count that occurs now would still be performed for verification,” he said. For the full report, see www.aph.gov.au/em. ■

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Sharing more than a love for cricket with India

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi urges the separation of religion and terrorism.



▶ A ROCKSTAR'S WELCOME: Indian-Australians came out to see Narendra Modi.

Narendra Modi made the first visit to Australia by an Indian Prime Minister since 1986 and he received a rockstar's welcome.

Following Prime Minister Tony Abbott's visit to India to continue discussions on strengthening trade and economic links between the two countries, tens of thousands of Indian-Australians welcomed Mr Modi into the country.

His entrance into the House of Representatives was received just as warmly, as Mr Modi described the two countries as united by the ideals of democracy and proud of their many shared values.

“We celebrate the legend of Bradman and the class of Tendulkar together. We are impressed by Australian speed as you are charmed by Indian spin, until, of course, Shane Warne came along!”

“Australia evokes images not just of immense beauty but also of a great quality of life. Today, its cities are alive with the richness of this world's diversity. And it is home to 450,000 Indians, who are as proud to be part of Australia as they are of their Indian heritage,” he said.

Prime Minister Modi sees Australia as a major partner in every area of India's growth, including health and education.

“We will partner to provide skills and education to youth, a roof over every head and electricity in every household, the most affordable health care for the most difficult diseases, the next generation of infrastructure, and energy that does not cause our glaciers to melt.

“In turn, India will be the answer to your search for new economic opportunities and your desire to diversify your global economic engagement,” said Mr Modi.

Like Prime Minister Cameron, Prime Minister Modi spoke of his region's security and said that terrorism has become a major threat for all.

“Terrorism is changing in character and expanding in its reach. It will require a resolve to isolate those who harbour terrorists, a willingness to empower states that will fight them, a social movement against extremism in countries where it is most prevalent, and every effort to de-link religion and terrorism,” Mr Modi said.

“So we stand together at a moment of enormous opportunity and great responsibility.” ■