

SOURCE 4

Resolution passed by the Australian Parliament in 1910

(PRO ref: PRO 30/69/1834)

HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :

Study this source carefully and consider what it tells you about why people thought women should get the vote. You should consider:

ASK YOURSELF:

- What is the point being made by the Australian Parliament?
- What have been the beneficial results?
- How have women reacted to being given the vote?
- Why do you think the resolution mentions that 'disaster was freely prophesied'?

SOURCE 4

“ (i.) That this Senate is of opinion that the extension of the Suffrage to the women of Australia for States and Commonwealth Parliaments, on the same terms as men, has had the most beneficial results. It has led to the more orderly conduct of Elections, and at the last Federal Elections, the Women’s vote in the majority of the States showed a greater proportionate increase than that cast by men. It has given a greater prominence to legislation, particularly affecting women and children, although the women have not taken up such questions to the exclusion of others of wider significance. In matters of Defence and Imperial concern, they have proved themselves as far-seeing and discriminating as men. Because the reform has brought nothing but good, though disaster was freely prophesied, we respectfully urge that all Nations enjoying Representative Government would be well advised in granting votes to women.

“ (ii.) That a copy of the foregoing Resolution be cabled to the British Prime Minister.”