

**From:** Inquiry into 2014 Victorian State Election POV eSubmission Form  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 July 2015 9:59 PM  
**To:** Electoral Matters Committee  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2014 Victorian State Election.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2014 Victorian State Election.

Mr Jeremy Orchard

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

--

As a volunteer/party member handing out how to vote cards, I attended many early voting stations, including Election Day during the 2014 State Election.

Many things in this democratic process went well. My main concern is that members of the emergency services were in uniform handing out materials (I believe such materials were appropriately authorized by the VEC). Being present is their democratic right, however being in uniform is of a concern.

By virtue of the trust we place in our emergency services personnel e.g. fire brigade, ambulance, paramedics, police officers, SES, etc this could give rise to unfair or misleading situations for voters. Their presence in uniform in an official looking manner could inadvertently bias or sway a voter. This would contravene the intent of section 84 Misleading or deceptive matter of the Electoral Act 2002. In this part/section 84 of this Law, it says 'a person must not distribute any matter or thing that is likely to mislead or deceive an elector in relation to the casting of the vote of the elector'. For instance, new voters, new citizens, culturally and linguistically diverse voters may be particularly susceptible to this situation of an official emergency services member in uniform presenting them with materials on how they are to vote. I thank the Electoral Matters Committee for reviewing this concern and ask that the Parliament also review this important matter of fairness and respect for the fundamental democratic process of Elections. I request a considered response in writing to my submission. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Jeremy Orchard  
Address supplied.

--