



6 July 2015

Mr Mark Roberts  
Executive Officer  
Electoral Matters Committee  
Parliament of Victoria  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into the 2014 Victorian State Election. I was a candidate in the Southern Metropolitan Region for the Legislative Council in that election. My submission is enclosed. I do not seek to speak at a public hearing. Should you wish to contact me, my work phone is   


Yours sincerely,



Clive Jackson  
Candidate  
Endorsed by Australian Democrats

## **Submission to Inquiry into the 2014 Victorian State Election.**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

### **Context**

I was a candidate in the Southern Metropolitan Region for the Legislative Council in the election. I was the lead candidate in a Group, consisting of myself and one other candidate. Arising from the draw conducted by the VEC for positions on the ballot paper, I became 'Group F'. Group F was the title that appeared on the ballot paper.

### **Party name**

I was an endorsed candidate for the Australian Democrats, as was my colleague candidate, Richard Grummet. I would have much preferred to be listed under the party name, rather than listed just as 'Group F', which gave the impression of us being two independents. I feel that this limited my potential to achieve votes, particularly in relation to those voters who did not receive a HTV card on the day, or had not noted our public advertising during the campaign. Those voters had no idea what we represented. The party did produce HTV cards. The card was submitted to the VEC and it did achieve valid endorsement by the VEC. These cards were distributed at selected polling booths on the day. The party was limited by its available volunteers for this task, so a number of the booths remained unstaffed.

I understand the reason for being listed as a non-party Group on the ballot paper. The Australian Democrats, as a minor party, had not been able to re-register in Victoria as a party, lacking the minimum number of members required for registration. I disagree with this rule. I submit that any properly constituted political party should be able to be registered, and have its name listed against its endorsed candidates.

### **Processes**

Some of the timelines for processes leading up to the election were tight for candidates, and for the printing of HTV cards. Minor parties having fewer resources and less money than major parties, could be disadvantaged by timing deadlines. Major parties were able to be print-ready and had a range of literature available, being distributed in advance.

A large proportion of voters chose to vote pre-poll, using the early voting centres. As a candidate, I was completely under-prepared for its importance in relation to the number of voters, lacking suitable pre-endorsed literature. I suggest that each early voting centre should have wall space/foyer space made available for all their local and Region candidates, so that a poster or leaflets could be displayed to inform those voters interested.

Further to this matter, the Australian Democrats favour the abolition of HTV cards, and their replacement with candidate and party information within polling booths. This is

supported on the bases of both limiting the waste of paper and of providing more complete information about voter choices should voters wish to read the material.

**The VEC**

All enquiries made to the VEC staff by myself were handled promptly and courteously, and questions were satisfactorily answered. I was impressed with the Regional Manager who handled my nomination as a candidate and who made himself available for direct contact throughout the campaign period. Being a Legislative Council candidate, it was particularly helpful to have someone dedicated to responding to upper house candidate processes and issues. The head office staff person who handled our submission as a Group was also very helpful. The candidate handbooks were also good. The Sunday afternoon briefing information session for all candidates was useful, although the Collins Street head office was much overcrowded for the occasion.



Clive Jackson  
Candidate  
Southern Metropolitan Region