

2nd of June 2015

To Hon Louise Asher: (MP)

Chair: Electoral Matters Committee

Inquiry 2014 Victorian State Election

As an Independent for the Set of Melton District I am pleased to express my views, insights and experiences

I would like to take each point and give you my view on

- View & insight and experiences

As a labour strong hold seat it is disappointed that this area does not receive more effective outcomes for the area.

This was my first time as an independent and found the local electoral manager an excellent point of contact for questions in relation to electoral process.

The early voting centre which was also the local electoral office was Not well known and was not well publicised. The area had no cover for participants or persons voting , the access for disabled persons was bad and cramped , I found this hard as I am a safety advisor and I am shore this would have Not complied with OH&S policies relating to access or exit in case of emergency . As there was no shade we had voters and participants collapsing, there was no access to water and none was organised or given by the electoral commission.

On the day of the vote I was stationed at a school, This day was very hot, the voting centre was in the school hall approx. 50/60 M away from the gate for the health and safety of the members and voters I requested to use the shaded area just inside the gate but got told as the hole area was deemed the voting area there was no flexibility by the electoral area manager.

I found the feedback was lacking, I think at the end of each day or the next day there should have been feedback given to participants on voter flow so to allow for organisation of voter slips. Also I found the post vote process lacking as an example the Melton district had to be counted three times with no feedback to participants.

I thank the committee for allowing me to have my view into sum of the matters of the State Election of 2014. The most outstanding issue for me was Health and Safety as a Government that has policies processes and regulations for health and safety I found this lax for the participants and voters and I was disgruntled of the duty of care given by the State Electoral commission on this subject when it was pointed out to them on the second day of early voting that this issue was Not being dealt with in a considered way.

Regards

Victor Bennett

Independent: Melton District (West)


Melton South Vic 3338

