

MR MARK ROBERTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE
PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
SPRING STREET
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

12TH OF JUNE

Dear Mr Roberts,

My name is Thuy Hung Vo, also known as Hung Vo. I stood as an Independent candidate for the Keysborough District in the 2014 Victorian State Election, garnering 5.4 per cent of the vote. I also stood as an Independent candidate for the Lyndhurst Electorate in the 2010 Victorian State Election, receiving 9.8 per cent of the vote.

First of all, thank you for allowing me to contribute my views on the administration of the 2014 Victorian State Election.

I can report that as an independent candidate standing at the State level election, I found some disadvantages to independent candidates, including:

- The information session for independent candidates was held three weeks before the State Election date, which is far too close. Independent candidates had insufficient time to promote, to campaign, to print and to distribute their policies to their districts. The earliest that any information session should have been held is at least three months before the State Election date;
- I also believe there should have been more than one information session provided for independent candidates standing at the State Election. There is a lot of information to digest that is presented, especially for first time candidates. Providing at least three sessions, preferably spaced out equally and beginning nine months before the election date, would allow independent candidates time to understand the information presented and so to prepare their campaigns adequately;
- Both Early Voting Centre offices were located outside the central business districts of the electoral seat (Clayton and Dingley, when Noble Park, Springvale and Keysborough's Parkmore Shopping Centre would have been more appropriate). This created confusion and inconvenience for the constituents. I believe there should have been Early Voting Centres provided in all of these three main locations.
- Lack of incentives to encourage independent candidates. I believe independent candidates should be offered better incentives and allowances than party candidates in order to encourage more independent candidates to participate in the State Election. Many independent candidates receive less than the amount that they spend on their election campaign.
- At the Election Day, I believe it is unfair for the main parties to be able to lay out long lines of banners while independent candidates can only afford a few or only one, if any. To be fair, all standing candidates should only be allowed one banner to each poll. This

would restrict rich parties from bombarding the constituents with banners and overshadowing other candidates that are unable to spend money on banners.

Thank you for allowing me to give my views about the Victorian State election and I hope to hear your response soon. Feel free to contact me via email or phone [REDACTED] if you would like more clarification of any points raised here.

Regards,

Hung Vo