



27 May 2010

Mr Robin Scott MP
Chair
Electoral Matters Committee
Parliament House
Melbourne Vic 3000

Email: Robin.Scott@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Scott

This submission is in response to the **inquiry into the functions and administration of voting centres (including joint voting centres) giving consideration to issues of location, accessibility, participation and transparency** on behalf of the Kororoit State Electoral Campaign Committee (Australian Labor Party).

With local knowledge and years of experience in working on booths during elections we raise the following concerns.

Proposition by the VEC regarding the location of booths

We have considered the list of draft booths in the VEC submission posted on your website and we wish to express the following concerns.

- There are not any booths allocated for Burnside
- There are not any booths allocated for Burnside Heights
- We are concerned about the joint/sharing of booths and the confusion this will cause the community. If there has to be shared booths due to the lack of other options, then this should be revisited rather than applying a blanket approach to share all bordering booths..
- Of the 13 that the VEC have notionally allocated they propose that 7 are to be joint/shared with the abutting Districts.
- We are concerned that the shared booths may encourage people to cross busy roads unnecessarily to vote in a location that is essentially in another district and that this presents safety concerns.
- We are concerned that there are at least 5 booths that are not accessible to people with a physical disability.



- We are concerned that when the site is selected for pre-poll that this must be accessible for people with a physical disability.
- We are concerned about proper signage for people to know the entry and exit point of the polling booth and that there should be only one entry point.

Accessibility at the booths

We want to ensure that our many disabled and aged members of the community are able to participate in their democratic right to vote and that the booths chosen have appropriate design (i.e. ramps and not steps) to allow for safe access.

There are lots of works going on in terms of construction at our schools. We want to be assured that by the time the election is held that the sites will be safe for the general community with particular emphasis on the elderly and disabled.

We want to see appropriate signage regarding the polling place and want to see that signage is concise and accurate. Some polling places have a history of large attendances whilst others not as many and therefore the queues and waiting times to vote are an issue. If there were signs providing options for the community to choose another local venue then this may be helpful. We are confident that this would increase the level of voter participation rather than see people walk away due to the long queues.

We hope that this information has been helpful to your enquiry.

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Chair
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Australian Labor Party
Victorian Branch

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Original is in the post