

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this complaint regarding the position of the pre-polling booth at Tweed Heads for the recent State election, behaviour of so called volunteers at pre-polling and polling stations.

As a volunteer handing out election information on most days during the pre-polling period and found the following to be problematic:

1. No disabled parking available at pre-polling site or near by
2. Confusion as to the exact site of the pre-polling booth
3. Insufficient parking close to pre-polling booth
4. Inappropriate behaviour of Labor volunteers from Melbourne and other states when handing out how-to-vote pamphlets. Forcing voters to take the Labor document, yelling out anti Liberal/National Party slogans which related to the Federal Government. This was the case for both pre-polling and at some booths on polling day.
5. Electrical Trades Union (ETU) from Cairns behaving in a bullying manner towards voters
6. ETU causing traffic interference by standing on the traffic island waving banners about the election
7. ETU interfering with volunteers handing out other party how-to-vote pamphlets both pre-polling and polling day
8. ETU attended all polling booths within the Tweed Electorate during the night to cover every surface up to and beyond the limitations of proximity of entrance to polling booth. Other parties were unable to put up any how-to-vote pamphlets
9. Failure of ETC to take down their how-to-vote information placed on power poles, fences etc.

I would like to point out this is not a matter of sour grapes or the like as far as Labor's supposed volunteers go and ETU members. This is purely a matter of a registered voter being able to attend a polling place without fear of being accosted by bullying behaviour or people yelling how to vote.

During the pre-polling I found many of the elderly voters felt intimidated by this behaviour and approach the other party volunteers to voice their concerns.

At the polling booth on Voting Day I found the behaviour of volunteers where I was to be excellent, all acted with in a courteous and respectful manner towards those voting and other volunteers in attendance.

It is my firm belief that all persons representing a Political Party in handing out how-to-vote pamphlets should act in a respectful and courteous manner towards those attending to vote and those handing out how-to-vote for the duration of pre-polling and on polling day.

I was ashamed to be in the same place at pre-polling as those exhibiting bad behaviour from outside our this State in support Labor. Had this been the case for The Greens or Nationals I would be making a complaint.

Kindest regards  
Marianne Melnikas