

**Inquiry into campaigning at polling places**  
**Submission by Lorraine Wreford, Member for Mordialloc 2010-2014**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important inquiry.

I wish to draw to the Committee's attention the disgraceful conduct of campaigners aligned with the Labor Party and the union movement in my former electorate of Mordialloc at the 2014 state election.

Throughout the campaign, I was the target of and witness to intimidatory and coercive tactics. The following are some examples:

- Trades hall sent busloads of people into the electorate to interrupt many of my campaign events, with campaigners dressed as firemen and ambulance drivers arriving to create an intimidatory presence for voters.
- I was often personally confronted by unionists who were aggressive and threatening towards me. On one occasion, a very tall and intimidating person claiming to be a firefighter tried harassing me during a campaign event at a primary school and proceeded to follow me after I had left the event.
- Ambulances were often used to disrupt my campaign. Sirens were let off near me when I was campaigning in the electorate and ambulances were frequently parked illegally in order to block my campaign vehicle, Liberal Party signage and other electoral material.
- Campaign material, such as banners and corflutes, was often defaced or destroyed. Most of my signs had phallic symbols painted onto them nightly.
- Hundreds of union corflutes were attached to fences illegally (mostly on train line fences) nightly, in the last two weeks of the campaign.

Some photographs of these incidents have been included for the Committee's consideration.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further before the Committee.

Lorraine Wreford