SUBMISSION NO. 4

Miskin, Sarah (REPS)

From: Bob Patterson [bppttrsn7@bigpond.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 February 2005 1:02 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)
Subject: submission

Dear Sir/Madam: Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission, though seeing the name of Eric Abetz I doubt that it will make much difference. I have contacted this person previously and all I received was the usual run-around, I doubt if he even reads his email. But again thankyou for this chance to contribute.

I will use the electorate of Forde which I am a member as an example.

At various times our member sends out tax payer funded 'news letters'. Normally these letters of six to eight pages contain up to seven or more photos of herself (and she is not a "pin up" woman) just doing what she is paid to do. Then a spiteful and mostly incorrect, that is it does not tell all, diatribe about Labor, Greens and Democrats et-al. The rest is pure lying - in my opinion - Liberal propaganda.

Come a Federal election these 'news letters' appear in **all** the news papers in the electorate in **EVERY** issue of ***EVERY*** news paper. I did put the figure of round $15,000+ of **TAX PAYERS** money used for this exercise. Now these 'n/letters' are blatant Liberal propaganda or re-election material they are **NOT** 'news letters' yet they are titled so. Of course these 'n/letters are **NOT** called re-election material EITHER, well they wouldn't be would they?

The above can be seen by electors as almost corruption, that is these propaganda sheets or re-election propaganda called n/letters, as a totally incorrect, arrogant, wrongful use of tax payers money. Of course the thought springs to mind ***WHY*** must the Australian electorate have to pay for the re-election costs of a very well paid sitting member. Especially when they are members of a very rich political party as well??????

The above is also totally unfair as **ONLY** the sitting member of whatever party gets to use these falsely called newsletters for re-election purposes.That is supposing all other sitting members in the Nation have our local members decency , probity & honesty and use the same scheme.

Now I know it would be almost impossible to wean politicians from the public teat or to get their snouts out of the public trough. Yet though these people are VERY, VERY well paid and they have given themselves sundry almost obscene perks and allowances they, the sitting members, continue to raid the public purse at election time and even think apparently that it is their right to do so. I put this to the local member and would you believe it she blamed the previous Labor Government for instituting it.

Surely each candidate could be given $5,000 (which is even to much) to assist them in their striving for public office at election time. At the end of the election this $5000 would have to be accounted for by receipts etc. Any not spent - ha-de-ha-ha- would be returned to the public coffers.

Otherwise Green, Labor, Democrat etc voters are subsidising a person they do not, would not vote for, this is wrong and this is almost stinking foul corruption.

Elections should/ must be seen as totally fair and above board which is not so today, this country is supposed to be a democracy. Yet whilst it is in the greedy grasping hands of politicians it will not be seen as that. Why can't this blatantly unfair, expensive and seemingly corrupt scheme be changed???

I hope the language I have used is not a bar to this submission being read by all the committee.

Regards, R. Patterson
123 Coomera Gorge Drive
Mount Tamborine Qld. 4272