

Submission 60

**Ms Catherine King MP
Federal member for Ballarat**

13 May 2008

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Committee Secretariat,

Re: Inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election

Thank you for providing to me information relating to the above inquiry. I wish to submit a response specifically in relation to:

- (d) *the provisions of the Act that relate to disclosure and the activities of associated entities, and third parties not covered by the disclosure provisions;*

In the 2007 election campaign in the seat of Ballarat a number of paid newspaper and television advertisements, and leaflets were shown/distributed.

Prior to the election these advertisements were run under the authorisation of a Mr Michael Casanova (Attachment 1 and 2). A former DLP candidate and founder of an organisation called the Christian Adult Social Institute, which is incorporated under Victorian State law.

The issue of incorrect authorisation was raised with the AEC and appropriately dealt with. However to our knowledge CASI have never at any stage provided a financial disclosure to the Victorian Department of Justice regarding its income and expenditure, nor have they been required to do so to the AEC.

During the 2007 election campaign identical ads to those run by CASI were shown on TV, print and leaflets (Attachment 3). Our estimate was that at least some \$40,000+ would have been needed to run this campaign. The authorisation was now an individual P. Jordan, RMB5570 Brookleigh Road, Strathbogie 3660 in the Federal seat of McEwan.

During the course of the campaign period my office received numerous calls objecting to the content of the material and wanting to contact the entity behind the campaign and know who funded it.

My understanding is that the current provision of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (CEA)* did not require financial disclosure of either CASI or the individual who latterly authorised this campaign.

It is my view that the Act should be strengthened to require such third parties to disclose.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Catherine King
Federal Member for Ballarat

King's allegiance. Emily's List vs Catholic Faith

Former Ballarat resident Cardinal George Pell, has urged politicians to stop publicly claiming to be Catholic, unless they take a Catholic line on significant issues.

In an interview, Cardinal Pell stated that, "if they (politicians) call themselves Catholics and on every significant public issue they don't line up with us, well at the very minimum I think they should go quiet on the Catholic labelling." (The Age, May 28, 2006).

Cardinal Pell was not trying to direct politicians how to vote. He was simply telling politicians claiming to be Catholic - are you in or out?

In certain matters the Church is unequivocal. Abortion is one. From any position within the Church not one Cardinal, Bishop, Priest or Nun will ever say the Church supports abortion. No argument. Catholic means supporting the rights of the unborn.

The issue of abortion is not politics. It is a moral issue based on the heart, faith and the weight given to human rights by the individual politician.

The way a politician votes in Parliament on issues such as abortion is a matter of private conscience. However it is also a matter of public interest. The public has a right to know exactly where their local representative stands on these important issues.

The Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, says she is Catholic. Yet Ms King is also a Foundation Member of the powerful pro-choice Labor Party women's organisation 'Emily's List'. Emily's List members "must support in the community and parliament, the principles of...pro-choice."

It is irreconcilable to belong to such diametrically opposed organisations as the Catholic Church and Emily's List. Yet in a speech to Parliament on 15th February 2006, Ms King supported the release of the abortion drug RU486 and in the very same speech said, "It is from my Catholic upbringing that I get my deep sense of social justice; I would not have become a member of parliament without it. I am Catholic."

Her Catholic upbringing may well have given her a deep sense of social justice - but it does not explain her parliamentary voting. Ms King went on to vote in favour of the abortion pill RU486 legislation just as Emily's List would encourage to do.

Why is Ms King wearing what looks like a pro abortion badge on one lapel and a Catholic badge on the other? Is it because Ms King is playing the 'Catholic' card for votes in the sizeable Catholic community of Ballarat? Ballarat voters have a right to know the answer.

Judging by Ms King's record in Parliament and her political affiliations, she has made her decision clear to her true allegiance, Emily's List. If so Ms King should listen to Cardinal Pell and go quiet on the Catholic labelling.

ad ran previous weekend but was on PS.

REMEMBER THIS

The Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, used her conscience vote in Parliament to support the abortion drug RU 486

Remember this...and vote with your conscience for the unborn baby at the Federal election this year.

Written and designed by T. Catalina for the Ballarat based CHRISTIAN ADULT SOCIAL INSTITUTE (CASI).
For more information write to CASI, Bridgely Street, Brown Hill 3350 or email Casib@iashome.com
Printed by Topprint 07 Beach Rd Torquay 3228

KING'S ALLEGIANCE: EMILY'S LIST VS CATHOLIC FAITH

Former Ballarat resident, Cardinal George Pell, has urged politicians to stop publicly claiming to be Catholic, unless they take a Catholic line on significant issues.

In an interview, Cardinal Pell stated that if they "go on with all the talk about Catholicism and on every significant public issue they don't line up with us, well it's the very minimum I think they should be given in the Catholic labeling." *The Age, March 2005*

Cardinal Pell was not being critical of politicians who do vote, he was simply asking politicians claiming to be Catholic - are you Catholic?

In various studies the Church's fundamental abortion issue, from the position within the Church and Cardinal Manning, Priest or now still with the Church supports abortion, "as opposed, Catholic

means supporting the rights of the unborn. The issue of abortion is not public's, it is a moral issue based on the heart, faith, and the weight given to human rights by the individual politician.

The way a politician votes in Parliament on issues such as abortion is a matter of public conscience. However it is also a matter of public interest. The public has a right to know exactly where their local representative stands on these important issues.

The Federal Member for Ballarat
Catherine King says she is Catholic. Yet King is also a Foundation Member of the pro-choice pro-life Emily's List. Emily's List, Emily's List members have support in the community and Parliament, the principles of... it is inherent in the Catholic faith... diametrically opposed implications as the Catholic Church and Emily's List. It is a stretch to Parliament as it indicates

Ms. King inspired the release of the abortion drug RU486 and in many ways...
It is from my Catholic upbringing that I have developed a sense of social justice. I should not have become a member of Parliament without it. *Jan Catholic*

Ms. Catherine King's upbringing may well have given her a deep sense of social justice, but it does not explain her Parliamentary behaviour. For the sake of the abortion drug RU486 (just as Emily's List would encourage her to do, to assist Mr King's walking both sides of the street, is Ms King just playing the Catholic card to be voted in the Catholic community? Local voters have a right to know the answer

judging by Ms King's involvement in the... it is her political obligations, what has made her determine to to her true allegiance? Emily's List, if Ms King should listen to Cardinal Pell and see what she Catholic... voting

REMEMBER THIS

The Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, used her conscience vote in Parliament to support the abortion drug RU 486
Remember this...and vote with your conscience for the unborn baby at the Federal election.

EMILY'S LIST IS A REGISTERED CHARITABLE ORGANISATION. EMILY'S LIST IS AN ABORTION OPPONENT. EMILY'S LIST IS A REGISTERED CHARITABLE ORGANISATION.

