

Submission to Inquiry into 2025 Election

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Laxale,

I noticed in the press that you are chairing an inquiry into, among other things, the activities of the Brethren during the election. You and I have met at a public event, and I am in your electorate. Just a little bit of information about my experience of the election.

I went for a walk in Anderson Park on Saturday 19 April. [REDACTED] Party members and staffers were setting up a tent and barbecues, so stayed around hoping to hear a speech or two. [REDACTED] appeared briefly, but did not give much of a speech. But then more than thirty mainly young people in blue [REDACTED] tee-shirts came in pairs along the path from the direction of the Meadowbank wharf. [REDACTED] greeted them with great glee and there was a bit of noise and then they went off in the direction from which they had come. The atmosphere was more like a religious revival than a political rally. They did not cause any trouble though they were a bit in-your-face and puzzling.

There was also an electronic road sign beside Victoria Road going down into West Ryde during the period up till the election. I forget the exact text, but was definitely discouraging votes for the [REDACTED] Party.

I voted at the St Anne's church hall in Top Ryde on the first day of pre-voting, because I have mobility issues that make the polling day very difficult. There were around twenty young people in blue tee shirts overwhelming the entrance to the hall. They effectively blocked the southern approach to the hall. I managed to dodge them by entering from the northern corner of Church Street and did not accept election literature from anyone, but their presence on a Monday morning during what should have been a quiet time, when I could exercise my responsibility was daunting.

Andrew Murray
7/9/25