

Submission to Joint Committee on Electoral Matter re the 2015 Federal Election

I was involved in the pre-poll, on polling day, and scrutinised the count and recount for the seat of Goldstein, representing the independent candidate [REDACTED].

During the pre-poll and on polling day I handed out voting information for [REDACTED].

Whilst at the polling place at St Stephen's Church, Brighton, I experienced verbal abuse from members of the Repeal the Teals group and witnessed members of that group repeatedly harassing and abusing others who were handing out materials for [REDACTED], as well as their sustained abuse and bullying of a young man handing out information for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

I witnessed members of the Repeal the Teals group repeatedly tell voters information about [REDACTED] statements, policies and actions that was misleading and untrue, especially with reference to the Gaza conflict, where they stated that [REDACTED] supported the terrorist organisation HAMAS, and had made statements and actions about the conflict and about related events in Australia that were anti-Semitic, which was not the case.

I witnessed members of the Repeal the Teals group change from T shirts that identified them as part of that group, to T shirts that identified them as supporting the [REDACTED] candidate. Particularly disturbing was that this was done surreptitiously, out of sight of the voter queue. On one occasion I saw Repeal the Teal member take a [REDACTED] Party shirt from another and stuff it into her bag saying to the other, "don't worry, I won't let them see me change." When I queried another member who had similarly changed identity, he replied, "that was my brother". Which was not true.

What disturbed me and I think is unacceptable in an election context is the flagrant and repeated deceit, dishonesty, abuse, harassment and bullying that was systemic in the Repeal the Teal polling place practices and for which they were unaccountable.