

At the 2025 Federal Election I elected to vote early and went to Eastwood Community Baptist Church to vote on the Saturday morning before the election with my adult son and husband.

The queue to get into the church was long (at least 50+) and stretched on to the footpath. The boundary for where the party representatives were allowed to go was the entrance to the church. There were about 10 [REDACTED] party reps, a handful of [REDACTED] reps, but at least 50 [REDACTED] representatives, a majority middle aged men. These people were placed alongside everyone who was lining up to vote all the way along the queue, and each time the line moved, the next person I aligned with asked if I wanted a flyer and wanted to know who I was voting for. They were less than a metre from me.

After being asked at least 5 times if I wanted a [REDACTED] party flyer, I again said no and I told the person he was intimidating me, and I asked him to step back. He told me that I should just tolerate where he was standing and kind of laughed off what I had said. I was so annoyed that he had not heard what I had said and had tried to intimidate me by standing his ground and he put it back on me to be tolerant when I had clearly asked him to respect my space.

I then put my head down between my tall husband and son and didn't interact with anyone else while in the line. It was such an intimidating situation, and I wish I had taken photos to show the number of [REDACTED] party representatives, I counted them and am not exaggerating when I say there were around 50.

While these people were not in the wrong place, they clearly took advantage of the fact that they could stand along side the queue unlike they would be able to do if the polling place was a school.

Going to vote should be an empowering positive experience and I walked away intimidated and fearful. I hope that changes can be made so that these people can not be positioned close to people lining up to vote.

Thank you

[REDACTED]