

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Impact of Social Media on Victorian Elections and Victoria's Electoral Administration

Cr Geoff Gledhill

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I strongly support the right of every person to express an opinion on any matter that may be of interest to them providing that their opinion does not unreasonably offend, intimidate or humiliate someone else.

What I am unable to accept is such opinions, that are often very strongly put, being done so anonymously.

Political debate tends to encourage vigorously supported views being aired and for the most part any comment, opinion or encouragement must be attributable to an individual via authorisation.

Unfortunately social media seems to circumvent this requirement, one does not have to look too hard to discover yet another anonymous blogger or wannabe political tryhard passing any and all opinions on whatever takes their fancy.

As an example take a look at the Facebook page of "eyes on "Kingston" which has appeared, coincidentally, since the preselection of ALP candidates in nearby seats. The site does direct much of its material at local council issues however it seems to be able to include criticism of State Government. I imagine as the State Election approaches more of these sites will appear, that's fine as long as what they say is attributable to a single person through an authorisation. It is important to set the standards of behaviour that protect our democratic institutions and maintain everyone's right to be honestly and fairly informed.

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File1:

File2:

File3: