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From: Katie Smith [mailto:XXXXX@weststreetlegalservices.com.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 17 February 2010 10:41 PM

To:

Subject: robertson pre selection

To all Robertson ALP members.

The Rudd government came to power in 2007. We all received at the start of that campaign a letter extolling us to work hard but to maintain integrity and honesty at all times. We did that, the Rudd govt was elected and to our delight Robertson was won back. Our elected member worked tirelessly alongside the rank and file. She reminded us that election night even when the seat was by not decided of what it meant to have a Labor Govt, a govt of decency, of social inclusion and of a fair go.

In recent times some of our members have forgotten the above. The media has been used by them to besmirch and harm the elected member. No allegations are made that she has neglected her duties, failed to carry out the job she was elected for or abused her office. Far from it. For no one can deny that despite increasing scrutiny, personal hardships and the unrelenting glare of the media she has down her job and done it well. This rankles her critics.

Yesterday I read the Telegraph, Front page news that she did her job and helped out a constituent but that is been used against her.

It is time that someone spoke out as to the unfair and immoral tactics been used in this Pre Selection. There have been leaks of internal party documents, lies and innuendo reported as fact to the media and general denegration of our member. There can be no purpose other than to harm her reelection prospects, and this same mob will then counter that because she is seen as unpopular with the media and she should not be returned as the member. To those persons I say shame on you.

The member has done absolutely nothing wrong except do what your previously supported candidates couldn't, win the seat and have the temerity to get in there and get the job done. Not once have you complained of her performance yet you stand now and condemn her for doing the job she was elected to do. You stood on the sideline and watch the media besmirchment and cheered and now you join in.

Some members without internet access may not be aware of the full extent of the vile conduct of those who support the candidate. Make no mistakes it is despicable and is designed only to harm the member and further the challengers agenda. Branch Members have been subject to racist remarks and vilification. A senior Labor official who supports Belinda Neal has been threatened. May I remind everyone of the Party rules relating to the media at the recent FEC meeting was the subject of an article the next day where I was accused of heavy handedness. Doesn't assist the party as a whole either but this mob doesn't care.

How do we stop this: contact the candidate and tell her you object and that this behaviour by her supporters does her no favours, She knows what they are doing and by her silence tacitly supports it. You don't have to. You can cast your vote on the 6th for the member and send once and for all the message that we stand behind the elected member and that gutter tactics are not going to dissuade you from doing the right thing.

At election time the media will remember what has gone on in the Pre Selection and use it against us in a seat we barely hold, It will cost us dearly. We all know Belinda can retain Robertson and that she and she alone deserves to be there come election day. A united front and a resounding Pre Selection win will silence all the critics; lets do it.

Katie Smith

ALP Member