

ETHICS, POKIES, FAMILY VALUES AND BRANCH STACKING

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Dear Liberal Party fundraising guest,

I understand that many of you are not Menzies Liberals but rather a wider group of conservative younger members opposed to the success and beliefs of our moderate Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Please have a think about what you are doing here at a pokies venue in Menzies supporting Kevin Andrews, the serial candidate running for the tenth time for Federal Parliament. After 25 years in Parliament, it is time for Kevin to retire, just like Andrew Robb, Philip Ruddock, Bob Baldwin and many others are doing this election.

As a believer in conservative family values, I was surprised and disappointed that Mr Andrews accepted a \$30,000 donation from Clubs NSW for his 2013 re-election campaign and decided to hold his main 2016 fundraiser at this pokies venue.

Poker machines are a con-job which do enormous damage to families and should be banned in Victoria outside Crown Casino. But the industry continues to make large political donations to parties and supportive MPs like Kevin Andrews. This prevents reform.

As a conservative with family values, could you please re-consider your support for Mr Andrews given that he and Mr Abbott were instrumental in defeating the proposed Wilkie-Xenophon poker machine reforms in 2011.

Another ethical question to consider is that of branch stacking. Reports in the *Herald Sun* today of a Kevin Andrews staffer signing up members of the Menzies Macedonian community without their knowledge were truly shocking.

It's not good enough just to sack the staffer. Where is the public apology to the people of Manningham? What sort of risk-management procedures operate in the member's office? And should a former Prime Minister really be attending this function when such a cloud is hanging over the beneficiary of the fundraiser?

There is an alternative in Menzies on July 2. Why not vote for a pro-business, fiscal conservative who works well with Liberal Lord Mayor Robert Doyle on Melbourne City Council.

Kind regards

Stephen Mayne

Long-time Menzies resident

Ex Liberal staffer

Strong Malcolm Turnbull supporter

Independent "Hamer liberal" candidate for Menzies

City of Melbourne councillor

