

GETTING INVOLVED

Early in 2012 I received two emails telling me that there was yet another euthanasia bill coming into the South Australian Parliament. I thought: "Here we go again; **another rear-guard action**". I decided it was time to get off my backside and see if I could **get some better people in Parliament**.

I called the secretary of the Labour Committee for Bright, which is the legislation district in which I live. I asked her "How do you pre-select your candidates". She said: "They are all selected by the State Executive". Now, the Labour State Executive is totally controlled by the Shop Worker's Union so there is no way one could exert any influence there. Next I rang the Liberals and was directed to David Speirs, the President of the Bright Branch. He told me that Liberal candidates were elected by the local members so I joined the Liberal Party.

I met with David to find out who was standing for pre-selection and what plans the party had to win the next election. David shared that he was standing for pre-selection himself and in discussion with him I discovered that in addition to him having outstanding credentials to represent me in Parliament he was a practicing Christian. I asked David about his plans to win the next election; he produced the figures from the 2010 election which showed that the Liberals had won every box in Bright except Hallett Cove. Clearly this time around we needed a candidate who could win more support in Hallett Cove. David had lived in Hallett Cove and was well known there for his involvements in community affairs. In fact, he had been elected to the Marion Council to represent Hallett Cove and had a clear plan to win the Hallett Cove boxes. There was only one other candidate for pre-selection. I met with her and asked her what her plans were to win the Hallett Cove boxes. She said she could not tell me that so I decided to support David.

The next step was to get David pre-selected. I approached the local Liberal executive team

and found that they, too, were in favour of David being pre-selected, so I prepared a letter to Bright Liberal members which outlined why I was supporting David for pre-selection and the executive team posted them out. Come pre-selection day, David got in by 4 votes!

If you want to assist in getting better people into our Parliaments, do what I did. Join the Liberal Party, find a good candidate and get him/her pre-selected. I was fortunate to find good people running Liberal affairs in Bright. You may not be so lucky. If the executive in your electorate is not so accommodating, get fifty people with strong Judaeo-Christian values to join the Party. That number will be sufficient for you to change the executive and get a candidate of your choice pre-selected.

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