



Integrity counts

A media statement from Jessie Price, Independent candidate for Bean

Members of the public have brought to the attention of my campaign team that the Labor Party distributed a potentially misleading how-to-vote card in the seat of Bean on election day.

As the picture below shows, the Labor Party used a green coloured flyer, instead of the party's official red, urging Greens voters to give their 2nd preference to the ALP. This is contrary to the official Greens Party how-to-vote guide which recommended voters place the ALP 3rd.

We have received reports that this how-to-vote card was distributed at several booths across Bean.

During months of listening to the community, the residents of Bean told me that integrity in government is important to them, and it is important to me. I might not win this seat, but it doesn't matter. This is about integrity and ensuring voters are accurately informed.

After such a positive campaign, it is really disappointing to discover this type of behaviour occurred. It is this type of behaviour that turns people away from the major parties.

My campaign team has formally reported this to the Australian Electoral Commission as a potential breach of the Commonwealth Electoral Act. Section 329 regarding misleading or deceptive publications says:

1. A person shall not, during the relevant period in relation to an election under this Act, print, publish or distribute, or cause, permit or authorise to be printed, published or distributed, any matter or thing that is likely to mislead or deceive an elector in relation to the casting of a vote.

We are concerned, as are members of the public, that this green coloured and targeted how-to-vote card may well have misled or deceived voters and we look forward to the AEC's ruling.

