

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Submission:

We received notice that submissions into review of the Members of Parliament (Staff) (MOPS) Act 1984 would be extended to 5pm Friday 1st July. Despite only discovering this at 3:59pm, we believe this is an important matter to address.

As a member of staff in the office [REDACTED], I believe the 75% reduction in the adviser allocations for crossbenchers will have an adverse impact on the most marginalised groups of Australian society.

[REDACTED] is a complex and sprawling community, with diverse issues and needs.

We represent over 130 culturally diverse groups. The city continues to be a settlement city for migrants, which requires additional resources to communicate, and to also facilitate their unique challenges.

The area also has one of the highest unemployment rates in Australia, as well as high levels of social need.

[REDACTED] is heavily reliant on staff members to assist [REDACTED] to make policy decisions and help [REDACTED] understand legislation that could impact the most under-represented groups in Australia. We do not have the resources of the government and shadow ministry. MPs and backbenchers who are part of these parties are provided with the information to make informed decisions on how to vote.

As an [REDACTED] office, we do not have this luxury. We need the right staffing allocation to give us a nuanced understanding of any government decisions that will affect our community.

We appreciate that the Prime Minister has allowed the office to keep electorate staff allocations to four people, as electorate officers are the backbone of any political office.

In the electorate [REDACTED], due to this greater need in our community, our electorate staff has a greater workload in assisting our community.

These issues are additional to existing issues and we have greater demand

[REDACTED]

than other electorates, such as the cost of living, immigration, the NDIS, Medicare, Centrelink and Housing.

However, if our electorate officers are forced to take on the role of advisers, and must focus on policy and research on legislation, this will strip resources from the community, further creating social and economic inequity in our area.

Furthermore, the Jenkins Review raised issues of workload pressure in the workplace, as well as staff wellbeing. If electorate offices are inadequately staffed, this could create unhealthy environment for staff.

The people [REDACTED] have elected [REDACTED] voice to represent them. To truly be able to maintain an independent voice for our communities, we need to have adequate staffing and resources. It is undemocratic to rob us of the ability to facilitate the community's needs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]