

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am writing as a potential staffer [REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

I was honoured to be an integral part of [REDACTED] campaign team, working to get [REDACTED] elected on the promise of championing a range of policy positions to service both the constituents of our electorate and the future of Australia.

As a [REDACTED] to both federal and state governments, I have a deep understanding of the extensive research, stakeholder engagement and innovative thinking that is required to develop and review policy frameworks, programs and legislation. Indeed, it is the foundation of our democracy and critical in allowing Australia to meet its many challenges, seize opportunities and thrive in the future - across all sectors of the economy and all parliamentary portfolios.

[REDACTED]

Also critical to our democracy is that Australians can hold their representatives to account by being informed of decisions made in Canberra that affect them - primarily through the media.

All MPs should be supported by staff that can meet the workload required for the MP to perform their job to the high standard that Australians deserve. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In doing my own due diligence on the requirements of a job, I have consulted with staffers from both independents, Labor and Liberal party and believe that even with 4 staffers, the job is intense, requiring regular 60 hour weeks. Even before the staffing cuts, [REDACTED] I was hesitant about both the amount of work and the sexual harrasment culture in Parliament during weeks I'd be away from my family.

Now, in light of staffing cuts I have serious reservations about a staffer position being fit for purpose. The workload will not go away. Whether I take on a role as either the one single personal staffer or a senior electorate office staffer, I will have responsibility for picking up the workload of 3 people.

I am not shy of hard work and long hours but the reality of the current situation is extreme. The position risks being completely overworked and stressed which I consider to be a real risk to my

[REDACTED]

health and wellbeing. As a result I may not take the position - a disappointing outcome given the aspirations I have had to work in Parliament my whole life.

I also believe that there is a conflict of interest allowing the Prime Minister to determine staffing appointments as it could be used as a political tool to maintain power and disempower independents. Staffing decisions should be reviewed by an independent board e.g. Fair Work Commission to ensure they are fit for purpose, don't risk impacts to Occupational Health and Safety and aren't weaponised for political purposes.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]