

Brace yourselves, we've still got another seven weeks to go until the Federal Election on July 2

MP under fire over stacking

James Campbell

A MAJOR branch stacking row centred on the office of Menzies state Liberal MP Kevin Andrews broke out on the eve of the federal election being called for July 2.

Mr Andrews's electorate officer Ananija (Andrew) Ananievski, quit after news broke that the Liberal Party was probing dozens of membership applications in Mr Andrews's seat, which covers Manningham.

Earlier this month the party's powerful administrative committee spent an hour considering a comprehensive report into the allegations of branch stacking. Mr Ananievski allegedly

signed up dozens of Macedonians, many of them elderly.

It is alleged that in some cases, the potential members did not know or understand that they had joined the Liberal Party.

A relative of one victim said his mother had been signed up at a meeting of a senior citizens club in Doncaster by Mr Ananievski in March.

Asked if Mr Andrews was present at the meeting, the relative said "of course he was there".

Several Liberal sources said the party's probe into the crisis would need to address Mr Andrews's alleged presence on the oc-

casation when people were signed up. The total number of questionable applications could be as high as 60.

A Liberal MP said Mr Andrews had been doing a lot of recruitment events "since he got turfed to the backbench".

State Opposition Leader Matthew Guy, whose state seat of Bulleen is inside the boundaries of Mr Andrews's seat of Menzies, is said to be furious about the alleged stacking - as is state frontbencher Ryan Smith whose seat of Warrandyte is partially within Menzies.

Mr Andrews's spokeswoman Cristy Elliott said: "The staff member has since tendered his resignation."



Menzies Federal Liberal MP Kevin Andrews in his office.

Picture: JOSIE HAYDEN

Row over anti-gay and abortion leaflets

Charis Chang

LEAFLETS opposing the AFL's first Pride match have been distributed at a fundraising dinner in Bulleen attended by former prime minister Tony Abbott.

Guests at the \$120-a-head black tie dinner gathered at the Veneto Club to support the re-election of Menzies

state Liberal MP Kevin Andrews, and fellow Victorian MP for the seat of Deakin, Michael Sukkar. Mr Abbott was due to give the main address.

As well as a three-course meal, auction and raffle, guests were also greeted with flyers that said: "Saints, Swans and the AFL. Who do you think you are?"

By support for the same-sex attracted agenda with a Pride Game you are saying that you don't support natural marriage.

"Two men cannot replace a child's mother. Two women cannot replace a child's father."

It's not the first time the leaflets, aimed at derailing the AFL's first Pride match

on August 13, have appeared. They were also left on spectators' cars outside the VFL game between Sandringham and Footscray last month.

The dinner at the Veneto Club in Bulleen was organised by the Menzies-Warrandyte Young Liberals, a new socially conservative branch of the party. Presi-

dent Stephanie Ross is well-known for her anti-abortion views.

But Ms Ross said she had no idea who brought the leaflets to the event: "We organised the tables ourselves and we had nothing to do with that leaflet, nor do we endorse its contents."

"Copy and paste" State MP under fire, PAGE 14



The leaflet distributed at a Bulleen fundraising dinner.