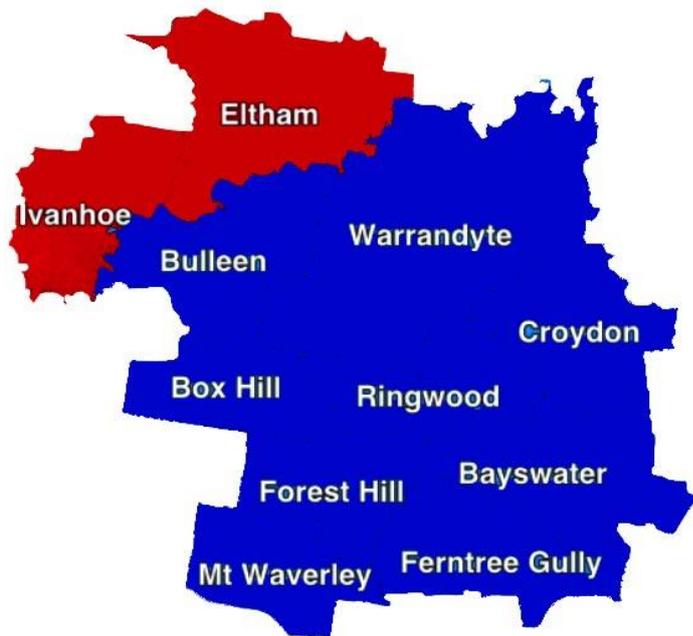


THE EMR



WHAT IS AN EMR IN VIC POLITICS?

Peter Adamis Abalinx 12 March 2017

Many will probably automatically believe that the acronym stands for an Electronic Medical Record (**EMR**) is a computerised version of a paper-based medical record. We'll let us put everyone's mind at rest and tell like it is.

The letters EMR stand for Eastern Metropolitan Region. The EMR covers electorates to the east and south of the Yarra River, including the electorates of Eltham and Ivanhoe on the north side of the Yarra.

It is interesting to note that of the eleven seats, nine are held by Liberals and Labor the remaining two. The image displays well the electorates involved. This is where for the past four years it has been a hotbed of political activity with individuals jostling for positions in order to influence the outcome

Every dog and his master is becoming involved which is like a breath of fresh air where a new broom is likely to swept away the old and the shelves being dusted of political cobwebs. From a political point of view the outcome will usher in a whole new batch of political aspirants who all seek power and glory. We being the mere mortals can only observe and hope that those selected have the knowledge, experience and the values to set the examples so sorely absent from the current crop of parliamentarians.

A new breed of political aspirants. Today, we have a new generation of political hopefuls all seeking havens, mentors and bases upon which to launch their political ideas and concepts. I applaud these new young members such as James Paterson, Marcus Bastiaan, Jess Wilson, Brad Roswell, Stephanie Ross, Andrew Asten, Georgina Downer, Nick Demiris, Nikki Petrovich, Stephen Jury and many, many others who are working towards making politics a career. Only the canny, the bright, the smart ones and those who have worked outside of the political arena will ultimately succeed while the others will be offered positions within all levels of government and in a position to influence.

The EMR a battle between the old and the new. I provided the above example of the future to highlight the up and coming preselection of the Eastern Metropolitan Region where it is looming to become a battle between the old and the new. Mary Woolridge, Richard Dalla Riva and Bruce Atkinson reside an aided by that long term veteran of politics, Peter Clark who was once considered for high office until he fell out of favour. All four have been plotting for some time to decide who will be acceptable to join them. There are many players vying for influence in one format or another, aided and abetted by interested bystanders and observers, eager to be in on the kill so to speak. It is where paybacks are conducted, deceptive practices carried out and deals cemented with saliva which are not binding. I am of the belief that Nick Demiris and Gladys Lieu will become the companions of Mary Woolridge, but having said that, we certainly live in interesting times and anything is possible.

Gladys Lieu. Gladys Lieu is believed to be a front runner, but her recent actions have put a damper on her chances, reducing her bid by almost half. Mary Woolridge and Caroline Elliot are helping Gladys Lieu which has caused some ripples amongst the blue bloods. Gladys Lieu has proven she is a great fund raiser who has been unfairly tagged with being associated with the Communist Party of China. She unfortunately tried to take the credit for winning Chisolm for Julia Banks with her so called mobile text messaging app.

Let it be known that Julia Banks won Chisolm under the leadership of Michael Kroger, local Greek community, young Liberals and clever campaign tactics designed to counter the new member replacing Anna Burke who was a much loved personality. All others seeking to take the credit should step and consider what responsibilities, roles and status were at stake on the day of the Federal election before passing judgment.

Emmanuel Cicchiello - Shilpa Hegde - Beau Dreaux. Emmanuel Cicchiello is another candidate who was unfairly accused of having links with the so called “la familia – Mafia,” is still a great outsider and should be considered on his merits. Emmanuel is a good lad and I have known him for many years but I am not convinced that he will have the rungs on the board to get over the line. Shilpa Hegde who has been in more campaigns than I can remember, has consistently been a good performer but she may be out of her class in this field of star performers. Then we have young Beau Dreaux, staffer for Richard Dalla Riva. One suspects that young Beau is standing for the sake of experience knowing that his chances are very slim indeed and yet his mentor and boss is supporting him in his bid for political office is stepping down after blotting his political career with some misdemeanours.

He has attempted to salvage his credibility by the introduction of new political campaign techniques which in my opinion will ultimately fail because they do not include members of parliament meeting with their constituents. It is rumoured that Richard is considering of migrating to Greece to live with his wife who has Hellenic origins. Whether this is true or not, it is a matter for the Olympian Gods to decide whether he will fit in well with the Hellenic landscape. I for one wish Richard and his family all the best for the future whatever that may hold.

Nick Demiris. Nick Demiris, a past adviser to Kevin Andrews, the Member for Menzies is well known for his support to Tim Smith for his election in Kew and is a known numbers man in his own right. Nick has taken a sabbatical for the past two years in order to gain credibility and the integrity of having experienced employment outside the world of politics. Good advice by his mentors, I must say and one hopes that he will remember them should he make the grade and reach the dizzy heights of political office. I am of the belief that Nick Demiris will unseat Bruce Atkinson who should step aside and go with dignity. Bruce has served his electorate well but it is time he was tapped on the shoulder and quietly advised, “Mate, it’s time to go”.

Srinivasan Vasan. Last of the well-known candidates we have Srinivasan otherwise known as Vasan, the member who won the preselection for Forrest Hill so many years ago and is still considered a reasonable chance. Vasan is associated with Matthew Guy and has been instrumental in raising funds for Kevin Andrews, Matthew Guy and many others. If anyone deserves a political guernsey it must be Vasan. Some may categorise Vasan as the member who is handy to have at ones side because of his vast network in the Anglo, Indian and multicultural circles. But then again, Vasan must convince ensure that he can muster sufficient supporters to his side and convince them that he is indeed committed, loyal, dedicated, tenacious and a believer of the Liberal Party beliefs. I am of the belief that Vasan will be treacherously pushed to one side during the chariot race to power.

Dilemma for Matthew Guy. Matthew Guy is somewhat in a bind here if Bruce Atkinson retains his seat in the upper house as two of his supporters Gladys Lieu and Srinivasan Vasan will be running for the third spot being vacated by Richard Dalla Riva. On one hand Matthew will want to support Vasan out of loyalty while on the other hand he needs Gladys Lieu for her connections and fund raising skills. Of the two Vasan has been instrumental in influencing the Indian community towards a Liberal party philosophy for many years, but as new communities are exposed to all political parties, the Indian community is now somewhat fragmented in their pursuit for power and a slice of the political cake. One could say the same for the Chinese community who have a very long and distinguished history in Australia and they too have claim for representation. One wishes them all well as it takes courage to face some 200 delegates all eager to ask questions of the candidates.

2015 and 2016 for me were years of reflection, treatment and recovery. Not to dwell on what could have been but to ensure that whatever time we have left is not squander in futile objectives that lead to nowhere. I intend to make life more meaningful and worthwhile, worthy of those who had a hand in making me who I am today. Life as we know it can only be sustained by vigilance and with that vigilance comes responsibility. Let us hope that 2017 is a good one.



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