

Libs' branch-stacking row

MICHAEL OWEN
POLITICAL REPORTER

TURMOIL has erupted in the Liberal Party as claims of branch stacking engulf candidates seeking to contest the state seat of Fisher in the 2010 election.

Candidates this week have written to state director John Burston urging the party to investigate the circumstances of those eligible to vote next month in the Fisher

preselection. It is alleged at least one person eligible to vote does not live in the electorate and only claimed to reside there for a few weeks.

The letters, copies of which have been obtained by *The Advertiser*, state the circumstances of enrolment in the Fisher preselection "appear to be suspicious and appear to have elements which could be consistent with branch stacking".

Branch stacking is enrolling individuals for the principal purpose of influencing the outcome of preselections.

It is illegal if it involves the use of false electoral enrolments.

The three Liberal candidates for Fisher, held by Independent MP Bob Such, are former party president Christopher Moriarty, corporate lawyer and former political adviser Alana Sparrow and consultant Tim Blackamore.

It is understood Mr Moriarty has not formally complained to the party.

The letters request an internal party investigation and, if any irregularity is confirmed, that the matter be referred to the State Electoral Office for possible criminal investigation.

Mr Moriarty described the allegations as "ridiculous" and "scandalous". It is understood the party will investigate the claims,

although Mr Burston yesterday said: "I do not comment on internal party matters."

A State Electoral Office spokesman said if someone allegedly had falsified an enrolment record and it was the subject of a written complaint, it would be investigated and could be prosecuted under law.

"It is a criminal offence," the spokesman said. "Someone needs to put an allegation formally to us with some evidence."

Wallet gets the short back and sides

WHAT MEN CAN GET FOR \$250

- **Cut:**
Colour - full colour or foils
- **Treatment:**
Style, blowdry or straighten
- **Take-home hair maintenance program** including shampoo/conditioner, treatment, gel, mousse, hairspray



LUCY HOOD

THE \$10 barber's trim has been given the snip. Men now regularly fork out more than \$250 on their hair.

Stylists say a man's cut and colour can cost up to \$120 with guys also spending hundreds of dollars a year on care products - sometimes more than women.

Hair stylist Tony Scarfo, from Zink in Plympton, said the rise in men becoming more adventurous had led to the increase in cost.

"Ten years ago, most men would have a basic trim for \$12 but now guys want stylish cuts and colours and will pay up to \$120 for them," Mr Scarfo said.

"Men are also buying take-home hair maintenance programs, such as specialised shampoos, conditions, gels and mousses each month which are another \$75 to \$150."

Among the most sought-after styles this

season are asymmetrical, parted and jagged, with long fringes.

Celebrity and "emo" influences play a part in men being more creative, with Fall Out Boy bassist Peter Wentz and actor/singer Jared Leto among those sporting side-part styles.

"Like fashion, hairstyles are also cyclical," Mr Scarfo said.

"Growing up, everyone wore their hair with a part and it has returned but with a more fashionable feel.

"The part is more angled rather than straight and guys are opting for longer fringes with either a textured or smooth, sophisticated edge."

Stylist Lisa Cimmino said: "Guys are taking charge of their looks, particularly with so many 'for men only' products on the market which make them feel more comfortable about buying."



PARTED STYLE: Finesse Models Samuel Clarke and Dafydd Lewis at Zink in Plympton.

Picture: MICHAEL MARSCHALL

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