# Labor minister’s volunteer controversy raises concerns over CCP influence in Australian politics



Labor cabinet minister Clare O'Neil's recent dismissal of ten campaign volunteers sourced from an organisation linked to the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) foreign influence operations exposes yet another alarming example of the government's reckless approach to national security. These volunteers, arranged to assist in Ms O’Neil’s constituency of Hotham—covering areas like Oakleigh and Keysborough in eastern Melbourne—cast serious doubts on the integrity of the current administration's ties to foreign entities.

The volunteers were organised by Chinese-Australian Labor MP Chap Chow in cooperation with the Hubei Association, a group previously accused of working with the CCP's notorious United Front Department, known for its covert influence campaigns aimed at shaping foreign political landscapes. This troubling revelation follows similar incidents, including volunteers connected to the Hubei Association supporting a Teal candidate in inner-Melbourne’s Kooyong electorate, further illustrating a disturbing pattern of questionable alliances tolerated by those in power.

The Australian Electoral Commission has now launched an investigation after footage surfaced of volunteers recalling directives from the Hubei Association to support specific candidates, raising red flags about external influence infiltrating Australia's democratic processes. Such missteps reveal the complacency of the Labor government in safeguarding the nation’s sovereignty.

Despite Ms O'Neil's claims that her office declined the volunteer offer, the Hubei Association insists they were approached by multiple parties, including Labor and the Greens, illustrating a broader failure within the establishment to resist entanglement with groups whose loyalties may be compromised.

This scandal underscores the urgent need for robust policies to prevent foreign interference and protect Australia’s political integrity—measures consistently called for by voices advocating for sovereignty, national security, and transparency in government. The electorate deserves leadership that prioritises Australian interests above all, not officials cozying up to organisations with links to hostile foreign regimes. With the current government clearly failing in this duty, the importance of strong opposition voices pushing for accountability has never been clearer.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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* <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/australasia/article/2131309/how-chinese-government-uses-front-organisations-influence> - This piece examines how the Chinese government employs front organizations to exert influence over Australian society, corroborating the article's claim about the government's approach to national security.
* <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-17/china-communist-party-australia-united-front-aspi-report/12334498> - This report details the Chinese Communist Party's United Front activities in Australia, including efforts to infiltrate foreign political parties and Chinese diaspora communities, supporting the article's concerns about foreign interference.
* <https://www.theconversation.com/inside-chinas-vast-influence-network-how-it-works-and-the-extent-of-its-reach-in-australia-119174> - This article provides an overview of China's United Front Work Department and its influence in Australia, aligning with the article's discussion on the government's ties to foreign entities.
* <https://www.rfa.org/english/china/2024/11/03/china-explainer-united-front/> - This explainer outlines the operations of China's United Front Work Department, including its activities in Australia, supporting the article's claims about the government's reckless approach to national security.
* <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-14/liberal-gladys-liu-linked-to-secretive-chinese-influence-network/11288210> - This article investigates Liberal MP Gladys Liu's connections to the Chinese Communist Party's United Front, highlighting concerns about foreign influence in Australian politics, as mentioned in the article.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14661735/Clare-ONeil-axe-China-recruits-polling-booths-Labor-Teal-Monique-Ryan.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data