

7/24/22 AAP Newswire 03:56:25

AAP Newswire

Copyright (c) 2022 Australian Associated Press

July 24, 2022

Andrews slams 'hateful' Vic Liberal pick

Mibenge Nsenduluka

MELBOURNE, July 24 AAP - AAP

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has criticised the Liberal party's endorsement of controversial Melton City councillor Moira Deeming, calling her political ideologies "hateful" and "transphobic".

Ms Deeming was endorsed for preselection at a Liberal convention on Saturday night in the contest for the upper house Western Metropolitan Region seat in the state election.

The high school teacher and mother-of-four will replace MP Bernie Finn.

Mr Andrews and Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas expressed outrage over the endorsement, saying her political views are harmful to the LGBTIQI community.

"I'm not here to comment on the Liberal Party and some of the transphobic, homophobic and frankly, unVictorian kind of hatred. This spite just doesn't work," Mr Andrews said.

"Like we're all equal. We all should be respected. We all should be safe. We all should be valued for who we are and we shouldn't have to be hiding who we are. We shouldn't have to be fearful that we're not going to be accepted."

Ms Deeming has previously called for separate bathrooms for transgender people and has spoken out against banning Australia Day and Drag Queen Story Time for children.

Mr Andrews said "weaponised" political debates can fuel suicide and self-harm rates.

"If you're trans in this state, you're five times more likely to self-harm than if you're not. That is a very serious issue," Mr Andrews said.

Ms Thomas described Ms Deeming as a "clone" of Mr Finn, who was booted from the Liberal Party in May for saying abortion should be banned across the state.

"I have to say, I'm pretty outraged but I'm not surprised," Ms Thomas said.

"What we've seen here is a political party that made a big song and dance about kicking out Bernie Finn and now they've pre-selected a Bernie Finn clone."

Ms Deeming made headlines while running for city council in 2020 when she shared controversial views in her candidate statement submitted to the Victorian Electoral Commission.

"Resources should be spent wisely and only ever allocated based on need, not on identity markers like religion, race or sexuality," she said.

"I'll never support rates being used to promote radical policies like banning Australia Day, Drag Queen Story Times for toddlers, or letting biological males who identify as female use female toilets and change rooms."

Opposition Leader Matthew Guy said he stands by the Liberal party's endorsement of Ms Deeming.

"The Labor Party thinks if someone has a different point of view to them they shouldn't be allowed to express it," Mr Guy said.

"(Ms Deeming) has expressed her views, as far as I can see, ... in a fairly respectful way and she's entitled to have a different point of view from a lot of people. Isn't she entitled to have a different point of view from the premier?"

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Health & Family (1HE30); Health & Wellness (1HE60); Political Parties (1PO73); Public Affairs (1PU31); World Elections (1WO93))

Industry: (Contraception (1CO66); Healthcare (1HE06); Healthcare Practice Specialties (1HE49); Women's Health (1WO30))

Region: (Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); Oceania (1OC40); Victoria (1VI05))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Liberal party; Victorian Electoral Commission; Labor Party) (Daniel Andrews; Moira Deeming; Bernie Finn; Mary-Anne Thomas; Matthew Guy) (Melbourne; Victoria; Victoria; Australia; Australia; Oceania)

Keywords: (11000000)Labor Vic

Word Count: 479

End of Document

© 2024 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.

NewsRoom