

Attachments:

Response to Motion - Moira Deeming MP.docx

From: Moira Deeming <Moira.Deeming@parliament.vic.gov.au>**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 6:29 AM

To: John Pesutto <John.Pesutto@parliament.vic.gov.au>; David Davis <david.davis@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Kim Wells <kim.wells@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Wendy Lovell <wendy.lovell@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Matthew Guy <Matthew.Guy@parliament.vic.gov.au>; David Hodgett <David.Hodgett@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Michael O'Brien <Michael.O'Brien@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Ryan Smith <Ryan.Smith@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Bill Tilley <Bill.Tilley@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Brad Battin <Brad.Battin@parliament.vic.gov.au>; David Southwick <David.Southwick@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Cindy McLeish <Cindy.McLeish@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Georgie Crozier <Georgie.Crozier@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Roma Britnell <Roma.Britnell@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Richard Riordan <Richard.Riordan@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Bridget Vallence <Bridget.Vallence@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Brad Rowswell <Brad.Rowswell@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Beverley McArthur <Beverley.McArthur@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Matthew Bach <Matthew.Bach@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Jess Wilson <jess.wilson@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Chris Crewther <chris.crewther@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Sam Groth <Sam.Groth@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Renee Heath <Renee.Heath@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Nick McGowan <Nick.McGowan@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Evan Mulholland <Evan.Mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Ann-Marie Hermans <Ann-Marie.Hermans@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Trung Luu <Trung.Luu@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Joe McCracken <Joe.McCracken@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Wayne Farnham <Wayne.Farnham@parliament.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Response to dossier

Dear Colleges,

Please find attached my response to the dossier against me that I have prepared with my legal team at Kalantzis Lawyers.

Apologies for sending this on the morning of the vote but given the leaking in relation with this issue, I thought it best in the party's interest to hold off until now.

Kind Regards,**Moira Deeming MP**

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RESPONSE TO MOTION BY PESUTTO, SOUTHWICK, CROZIER AND BACH

A. INTRODUCTION

1. By letter dated 20 March 2023, I was notified of an intention to move a motion at a special meeting of the Victorian Parliamentary Liberal Party seeking to expel me from the Victorian Parliamentary Liberal Party.
2. The proposed motion provided to me makes allegations about alleged conduct by me said to have occurred on Sunday, 19 March 2023 and in the days preceding. To the extent that the proponents seek to refer to and rely upon events that occurred on Saturday, 18 March 2023 at Parliament House the notice is defective.
3. The proponents of the motion do not establish a purported basis to expel me from the Victorian Parliamentary Liberal Party. The allegations about Ms Keen, the “Let Women Speak” event and Ms Angie Jones are false and deliberately and selectively misleading.
4. On 18 March 2023, I attended and participated in an event held on the steps of Parliament House entitled “Let Women Speak”, which was hosted by Ms Kellie-Jay Keen. This was disclosed in advance as I mentioned it in Parliament. I admit that with the benefit of hindsight of what has occurred that my participation may have been an error of judgment that resulted in unneeded scrutiny.
5. When I attended the event I made sure I did not speak as a Liberal, in fact I did not even mention I was a Liberal. My contribution was to read a letter from a Muslim friend and constituent who shared her concerns about the loss of sex-based rights from a migrant Muslim perspective.
6. Northern Territory Country Liberal Party Senator Jacinta Price addressed the same event in Queensland. Tasmanian Liberal Party Senator Claire Chandler had planned to attend the event in Canberra. The event tour was supported by CPAC a well-known and reputable organisation which is chaired by Warren Mundine AO, former Australian Labor Party national president who sought office both as a Labor Party and Liberal Party candidate. Ms Keen was interviewed by Sky News, 2GB and other news outlets in advance of this event. This event and the positions discussed at the event represent positions in the Australian mainstream and are reflective of a broad spectrum of the constituency of this state, and some of the concerns raised have been vindicated by the decision of the World Athletics Council on 24 March 2023.

7. I was known to the organisers and they asked if I could assist in making the event safer. I sought permission from parliamentary services in advance for them to be granted access to the secured carpark to avoid traveling through the blockade of far left-wing extremists.

B. FALSE ALLEGATIONS

Ms Keen

8. The false accusation that Ms Keen was known to be publicly associated with far right-wing extremist groups including neo-Nazi activists, perpetuated by far left-wing activists, if it had any credibility, would have resulted in her being denied entry to Australia and New Zealand. Ms Keen was investigated and no such basis to revoke her visa was found.
9. Ms Keen did do an interview with Jean-François Gariépy, but Ms Keen has previously addressed this stating she had no knowledge of his beliefs and if she was aware she would have challenged his beliefs directly or not appeared. The Pink News article referred in and annexed to the motion also included the following from Ms Keen:

Parker told *PinkNews* that she was asked to go on the show by Gariépy's assistant, and that she gave his channel a cursory look and "nothing at the time stood out as anything unusual or problematic".

She added: "I make it my business to avoid researching or policing the entire spectrum of someone's views, I think the mutilation of healthy children's bodies is too important, and so it's not usual for me to do an FBI style background check.

"I am, of course, concerned at the accusations I have heard since recording the show. The misogyny was not something that surprised me, it is very much at home in both the left and the right of politics, whether it be the enforcement of traditional roles through to pretending we don't know what a woman is.

"White supremacy and the racism that fuels it has no place in a civilised society, I abhor those views and the people that hold them. As a free speech advocate I think dialogue, even with those with the most odious prejudices, is essential. How are we ever to change or challenge them if we don't engage? These days so many people are called Nazis and far right that the prophetic warning that we will no longer recognise the real ones is beginning to come true."

10. As to the Soldiers of Christ allegation, this was a small YouTube channel with less than 5.9 thousand subscribers. It is clear from the introduction of the video that this was not a pre-planned interview and Ms Keen had to be told who the channel was and it was described as a 'Christian channel'. The channel may or may not be far-right but Ms Keen has confirmed that she had no idea who they were. The source the proponents rely upon

for this and several other allegations in support of their motion is a small left wing pro-Scottish Independence / SNP online newspaper The National, that had an obvious political agenda and bent and is not a credible source of information.

11. The allegation about Ms Keen posting a photograph with Hans Jørgen Lysglimt Johansen on the Internet is false and misrepresents the content of The National article, itself a hit piece to discredit Ms Keen. Ms Keen did not share a platform with Johansen as the article claims. She spoke at the Mot Dog left wing conference but Johansen did not speak at the conference and was merely an attendee: see the conference speaker list here: <https://archive.md/TcDtT>. It is immediately obvious from the *evidence* the motion proponents annexed that Ms Keen did not post this photograph – it is clearly Mr Johansen who posted the photo on his own Twitter account after seeing Keen give a talk at the Mot Dag conference. As reported by The National, Ms Keen did not know who Johansen was when the photograph was taken. It can similarly be said that it would become impossible for MPs to engage with the community at all if to do so meant that one could be accused of sympathising with every person's background or political beliefs singularly for being seen with them despite having no knowledge of same.
12. The allegations about Ms Keen using a Barbie Doll wearing a Nazi uniform as her profile picture on the social media site Spinster made in The National hit piece are missing context. Ms Keen made a poor distasteful joke, which I unreservedly condemn, in an attempt to mock a far-left activist who had called her a Nazi Barbie doll. I had not heard of the social media site Spinster until this motion. It is self-evident that it is not the implication of the image, and the word 'pridestapo', that Keen is herself sympathetic to Nazi views or associated with Nazi groups in anyway. It is apparent that the textual and visual conjunction of "Pride" with "Gestapo" is to analogise the authoritarian policing done by the Gestapo, to the authoritarian policing of dialogue around women's interests and women's rights by some extreme activists in the Pride lobby (which is distinct from people who identify as gay and lesbian themselves who are a diverse group, many of whom agree with the "pro women's rights" position).
13. As to the allegations about Lisa Morgan, the reliance on this speech is intentionally misleading. It is clear that Ms Morgan was not celebrating Hitler but condemning political stances that rely on 'big' lies for success. Ms Morgan has written a book critical

of Donald Trump and other centre-right politicians and their use of lies and appears to be a left-wing activist with no association with far-right extremists, Nazis or Neo-Nazis: see <https://lisa-morgan.co.uk/>. I, however, unreservedly condemn any use of Hitler as an analogy or device to criticise modern behaviour whether by the left, right or anyone.

18 March 2023

14. As to the reliance on the actions of the National Socialist Network on 18 March 2023, those persons were not associated with the “Let Women Speak” event. Ms Keen and Ms Angie Jones have declared multiple times that these men were not associated with their event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4IZ5u8uws4&t=615s> Ms Jones and Ms Keen; <https://twitter.com/angijones/status/1637242427370250241> Ms Jones; <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/violence-erupts-at-antitransgender-rally/news-story/87e06cdf34e9551c2d869849fd41d550> Ms Keen. The Australian Jewish Association has declared that these were not associated groups. <https://fb.watch/jtexMR52dM/>.

15. The allegations about my meeting with Ms Keen, Katherine Deves and Angie Jones after the Let Women Speak event on 18 March 2023 are misleading. We met at my urging as recorded on the video so we could address the invasion of the event. As recorded in the video, we started explaining that at the start we did not know who they were. They were thought to be Antifa who wear all black and cover their faces. Antifa have tried to attack similar events overseas. I mentioned we had a volunteer who tried to stop them coming into our area and the police seemed to usher them onto the steps and then past our event.

12:18 “They did a Nazi salute and that was horrifying” Deeming

14:33 “All of us women were terrified” Deeming

14:43 “There were these terrifying big strong masked men and we didn’t know why they were there. And we know now that the police knew that they weren’t with us because they escorted them away from us and away from the protest” Deeming

14:54 “Our own marshalls had asked them to leave” 15:06 “I wonder what prompted them to leave because I didn’t really notice them” Keen

15:12 “They didn’t come near us. We all had our backs to them” Jones

15:38 “they were never with us, they were way over there. We all had our backs, we were facing away from them.” Jones

Questions were raised about the origins of these men because we did not know them. Questions were raised about Victoria Police’s actions in not removing these men. The police are now facing legal action for the reasons we raised. “Chief commissioner Shane Patton put on notice over protesters’ ‘heil Hitler’ salutes Victoria Police is facing legal action unless it disciplines officers for failing to stop neo-Nazis from protesting at Parliament House.” https://www.heraldsun.com.au/truecrimeaustralia/police-courts-victoria/chief-commissioner-shane-patton-put-on-notice-over-protesters-heil-hitler-salutes/news-story/eb9dc6612eea6f3294f88a7a16f3cff4?fbclid=IwAR32WTY64J6dvFYd6MRrd5Vxp2homQa8OEx9sENsEp6FV_WpsQJvCojai1E

16. I condemned the horrifying Nazi salute. I did not explicitly condemn the men as Nazis because at that stage none of us were aware that these were confirmed Nazis. My uncle was a holocaust survivor. One lesson he instilled in me clearly was to not downplay the horrific tragedy and evil of the holocaust by accusing anyone of being a Nazi unless you were 100 per cent certain.

Angie Jones

17. Angie Jones is a left-wing, pro-gay rights, radical feminist, Jewish woman. It is simply not credible that she is a Nazi or pro-Nazi.
18. Her Tweet was after the event and I could not be aware and was not aware of the Tweet when I met with her. I unreservedly condemn her use of a Nazi analogy.
19. The full tweet exchange reads:



20. The full set of interactions make it clear that the Nazis were not part of the planned event and they were there on their own accord to face against the 'Antifascists'. In the mind of any reasonable lay observer, Ms Jones clearly disassociates herself and the event from the neo-Nazi intruders.
21. In regard to the last Tweet, I am not defending Ms Jones' choice of words but her clear point was that if even Nazi's (the worst of the worst) are against paedophiles, why are you not? I unreservedly reject the use of Nazi analogies in the strongest terms.
22. This Tweet was directed at an individual who Ms Jones has said in other Tweets tried to assault her at the event, assaulting another woman instead. She has been interacting with this individual online with for years and they have had prior clashes in regard to him not condemning individuals with adult baby and nappy fetishes. An adult baby fetish is a grown adult gets sexual arousal from dressing and acting like an infant. A nappy fetish is where a grown adult gets sexual arousal from wearing and urinating and or defecating in a nappy. <https://twitter.com/angijones/status/1637546290535096323>
<https://twitter.com/angijones/status/1637185554285723648?s=20>
23. I reject that any lay observer could consider that my association with a woman who later was making arguments against paedophilia was likely to bring discredit to any person or parliamentary or political body. It is spurious to imply any culpable association between

Ms Jones and the neo-Nazis due to her unwise use of a Nazi analogy in a Twitter discourse after the event, let alone any indirect discreditable culpability on my part for associating with Ms Jones earlier on 18 March 2023.

C. CONCLUSION

24. The proponents' serious allegations have not been established and are directly contradicted by the evidence on which they rely. In light of the evidence, the only credible response is to withdraw, or in the alternative, vote against this motion. Voting in support of a motion which lacks a real or credible evidentiary basis would bring disrepute upon our Parliamentary Party.

Moirá Deeming