

## Transcript of Let Women Speak Australia - Melbourne Post Event Chat

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### Attendees:

- Moira Deeming (**MD**)
- Kellie Jay-Keen (**KJK**)
- Katherine Deves (**KD**)
- Angie Jones (**AJ**)

Speaker	Time	Transcript
KJK	0:00	What a day! So I'm here with some evil TERFs uh down under. We're calling this, I'm calling this TERF talk down under it's a concept that I've come up with [*all laugh*]. I have Angie Jones here, who is the TERF talk down under content deliverer. I've got Kathy, Katherine Deves, uh myself I'm Kelly J and this is Moira Deeming who's an MP and we've just had an exceptionally interesting um day
	0:38	so if I come round and maybe each of you can sum up your, the best and worst maybe, or let's start with the best let's go positive because I'm just, I'll start. So, I think the number of people that turned up today is absolutely phenomenal, I'm just absolutely blown away, just the courage of everybody that turned up.
	1:04	I'm always quite impressed in Australia that there's quite a good handful of men who turn up on the TERF side, and obviously the trans activists came which meant the press came but we can't really um it's Melbourne so it's very different right so um ah Angie you are Melbourne.
AJ	1:23	Yeah, um the thing that I think we did well is that the marshals we were very under-resourced like there weren't many of us but I think we all came together and and kept people safe where we needed to and I am very very very proud of the women who were in our working group and who fronted up today.
	1:40	Some of them have never ever even been to a protest let alone been a marshal with violent TRAs and they really stood up you know um yes I'm really really proud of them and I think also visually I think one of the reasons that they're on the news, they haven't shown our side they're only showing the Nazis and the trans rights activists is if you looked at our protest you'd see all these signs that all matched, and see the rainbow flags and the suffragette flags and visually we looked the sane
	2:12	and all the messages were on signs as well that you could easily see like you know um what is it lesbians don't have a penis and whatever so I think the reason the media didn't cover our side from you know stand back and take a photo is because we looked great and it would have made people curious about what we were about [*all nod*]
KJK	2:32	Yeah, ah Kath what about you?
KD	2:34	I thought the speeches today were absolutely magnificent um what some of those women got up, they were shaky when they got off the microphone they were so brave again it was such a varied mix of women, varied mix of experiences
	2:53	and if the people who are the detractors or the media who have been and some of whom have been absolutely just remiss in how they've reported this if they actually listened to what the women had to say they'd understand what we're about so I think this is a fantastic record for history and I'm really proud of everyone who worked to put it together today.
KJK	3:14	Yeah me too. I'm particularly I think Australian women are quite funny. I think there was a lot of humour in a lot of the speeches. What about you Moira?
MD	3:24	Look as a newly elected MP it was really interesting for me and vindicating to see women from every single political party uniting over these basic human rights. It was also wonderful to see uh just how protective everybody was of

		each other, you know we had a couple of people uh become very violent so some trans activists pretended to be a part of our group.
	3:50	Obviously there was that group of masked men who came in, we didn't know who they were but we were concentrating on these people at the front and you know one woman was knocked unconscious and taken to hospital. I got kicked in the shins a whole bunch of times.
	4:01	But they were dealt with within you known under, under, under a minute each, we dealt with them we got rid of them and we just carried on and that's what we'll continue to do and it was just a fun day and it was really great.
KJK	4:13	Yeah um one thing that I think we need mention about the attacks. Um, the first kind of weird thing with the paint, that was two women um the person who grabbed the microphone that was a man and I think that there's been a lot of um misinformation online about that person being a woman and that security...
	4:35	And let me just say for the record and I'm not speaking for anybody else in this room but if somebody comes and poses a risk to women, I'm kind of all right with a bit of, a little bit of violent kind of pulling them out of the way uh proportionate violence um and getting them out of the way and away from women as a risk.
	4:58	So some highlights would be some of the speeches some of the courage um a low light I think would be the fact that uh the police were brilliant, do we have to wrap up early because the horses were being assaulted and the police were really frightened by silly trans activists, the peaceful trans activists, many of them vegan don't mind punching a horse apparently.
	5:21	So we had to wrap up that's why we finished a little bit sort of quicky and we had to really rush the speeches at the end and then obviously there was some other people occupying the steps which I think we all thought we were told by security were antifa because they were all in black with black masks so we thought they were antifa and they were just over there but I think it's safe to say, there were so many risks, potential risks in our crowd.
	5:48	Um there was a dodgy man that never got to really do anything but everybody was there was a lot of like eyes on him um there was another couple of women that other like some of the stewards didn't know: were they safe? Were they not? Were they about to attack someone? So there wasn't a lot of time to try and ascertain what, what else was going on between like the, the people in your immediate vicinity and who was going to cause harm.
	6:13	Um Angie you were sort of more on the outskirts what was, what were the trans activists trying to do? It looked like they were trying to break through.
AJ	6:20	They were, they were. They were under the horses punching the horses in the guts trying to get between the horses to get through to us.
KJK	6:30	That's so *inaudible*
AJ	6:32	Now yeah and they were they, they were rabid and I, I had a few of them you know point and do the [*makes a slitting the throat gesture*] um they were absolutely and utterly rabid, and they would, they would point and go like [*gestures with her fist*] they were just crazy
	6:46	you know and um yeah but we, we were, we had a couple of people on the outskirts because we wanted to watch and see um if they broke through then we would have all had to go quickly because they, you know, they were pushing and shoving and pushing and shoving and because they, they were, there were probably three or four deep and spread out across about, what? 50 metres?
	7:09	If that line of police had broken they would have swarmed us and you know women would have got hurt and it was men, it was mostly men there was a lot of young women screaming and yelling insults in front and just saying disgusting things. Um but the threats of violence were from men there were so many men in that crowd. And they meant business they meant, they came there to harm us.
KJK	7:31	God, god. What did, what you you think because you're a woman of reasonable height so you could see over and see what was, did you sort of feel that there was an imminent threat?

<b>KD</b>	7:47	Um I did. Early on in the piece I was alerted to a man who was there um and he had expressed the desire to harm I think all four of us. Those of us who are sort of prominent in the group and I actually felt quite fearful about that and that's when we were told that the police have said you need to run if that guy comes towards you it's like run well where, where do we go um and I was uh roaming around quite a bit uh once I'd, I'd spoken um just to get a gauge and a few times like with the microphone people and the paint people I was like Spidey senses I'm sorry those people are off, those people were off and there was a couple of people that I approached to vet them um and a few people who got offended that I did that but I just said I'm sorry like every, everyone is afraid right now you don't fit in explain yourself because we don't know who you are and I mean liquids were thrown, there was a water that was thrown there was someone who had some sort of faeces smelling liquid that was sprayed on women.
<b>KJK</b>	8:49	It's not funny it's disgusting.
<b>AJ</b>	8:50	It's fart gas, they had fart gas.
<b>KJK</b>	8:53	That is so weird
<b>KD</b>	8:54	But it's like but we don't know if that's acid we don't know what that is. Something that really so there was a few moments where I thought I'm actually feeling really afraid and when we saw the TRAs pushing forward and the police weren't pushing back on them and they were getting closer and closer and that's when the police horses came over from that side and I was really grateful for that but then when I heard they were assaulting the police, police horses wearing armour coming underneath and punching police horses in the belly I just thought my God these people are actually insane.
<b>KJK</b>	9:26	Well I've heard a lot of people like normally taxi drivers because they're not necessarily in this country but uh taxi drivers are often um on the precipice of sort of conspiracy theories but obviously sometimes they seem to know stuff before, and they think and I think it was, I think it's um worthy considering they think that some of these activists are paid,
	9:49	like coming with armour that's a bizarre thing to do to defend um penises in women's faces um but coming with armour to fight the police knowing, like knowing to punch a police horse in the gut underneath it's just disgusting but knowing to do that, that just seems a little bit more military um threatening and professional.
	10:13	But should we talk about, um, to talk about the elephant in the room Moira because you're going to complain...
<b>MD</b>	10:20	Yes.
<b>KJK</b>	10:21	...because we had, we're not when we both got there so we had, we were told that well we both thought that there was antifa um and I was told even putting my uh tripod at the top of the steps there was a very militant, there was a very militant police officer that was like get off the steps don't stand on the steps, don't stand on the steps, don't stand the steps. Really wouldn't let us stand there and we had a permit for where we did stand but there were other people that didn't have a permit.
<b>MD</b>	10:48	Yes so the thing that I found very confusing was that we were assured by the police and as I say, it seems to us while we were there that everything was going well that the police were trying to help us and I think the majority were but when I was alerted to the fact that they were all these masked men coming towards us they were all in black we couldn't see their faces I thought that the trans rights activists had broken through the line and we're about to get attacked.
	11:15	I honestly just thought this is it yep I'm about to, we're all about to get attacked. Um but the police were very, very calm and you know they had set up a big buffer zone, they had set up you know a boundary but they were talking to these people and letting them stand on the steps and take photos I was told later that they had a banner or something.
	11:36	You know, but then I was also told later that one of our marshals had stood like this with her arms out to stop them from coming in because like me like most women there we thought that they were antifa, they had broken through the lines

		we were about to get attacked and the police for some reason that I do not understand, ushered them in let them have photos on the steps next to us and then instead of pushing them back out the same way that they came in, took them right through that the middle of the buffer zone that they had been, you know, at great pains to separate us all um from either side of, they just walked them right through the middle
	12:11	and, and then right as they were in the centre in front of all those cameras they did a Nazi salute and that was horrifying but, you know, that was only a split second because then you know they would continue to be escorted out and so I thought oh good they've taken them out
	12:24	but it was only later on I thought why did they even let them in here, what, how were they able to keep all those trans rights activists, the ones who were punching horses, how did they keep all of those people away from us but they just welcomed in and let these people in black masks you couldn't see their faces, no identifying, um
AJ	12:41	They looked like black bloc, they did, they looked like black bloc...
MD	12:43	You know, there was no symbols. People are saying, you know, why didn't you tell the Nazis to leave well there was no Nazi symbols on them I thought they were antifa um until they put their hands up like that I thought they were the trans rights activists um and then when they did that you know they were being escorted out and it was over.
KJK	12:58	Well the funny thing is as well they shout at me you can't run you can't hide you've got Nazis on your side and they're really angry shouting that I'm this thing and this apparent thing that they really hate when they those men did that Nazi salute...
MD	13:15	There's no reaction
KJK	13:16	There was no reaction whatsoever, those trans activists didn't get more angry didn't shout didn't get more agres... they didn't do anything,
MD	13:23	It was as if they were saying hello. [*Laughter*]
KJK	13:25	Maybe it was that maybe to their friends but um I think it's very interesting because I think any one of us recognisable women had walked that same bit down there they would have broken through they would have attacked us and I just... something about all of this doesn't make any sense it feels really off, it feels like they were either... I mean look in the UK we had police impregnating women who were animal rights campaigners right and we, we had those police um infiltrating groups.
	14:07	I don't think it's beyond the wit of anyone to think that that either was uh TRAs dressed up or police or just... something was just off because there wasn't enough violence between the two men.
MD	14:22	Best case scenario was a massive mistake by the police to let these unidentifiable masked men in because all of us women were terrified.
KJK		Yeah.
MD	14:32	We did not understand why they were there. The police had been successfully keeping everyone else away and then all of a sudden 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 obviously escorted them away from us and away from the protest
	14:49	and uh and that our own marshals had asked them to leave.
KJK	14:54	But I don't so I, I guess it's not really for us to work out why the police suddenly escorted them away.
MD	15:01	Through the middle.
KJK	15:02	I mean that's nuts but I wonder what prompted them to leave because I didn't really notice them.

AJ	15:09	Yeah, they didn't come near us. We all had our backs to these guys on the on the um steps we had our backs to these blokes and so there's a few of us milling around once we realized they weren't a threat we kind of turned our backs.
	15:22	and we've just got on with it yeah and so the the reason that there's no photos out there of the Nazis with us "the Nazis" inverted commas with us is because they were never with us they were like way over there.
	15:36	We all had our backs we were facing the opposite direction so when the police marched them out they marched them towards the trans rights activists past the trans rights activists, they saluted at the trans rights activist and the trans rights activists didn't even blink and kept yelling at us women.
KJK	15:53	Yeah.
KD	15:54	It's very strange.
KJK	15:57	What I also wonder as well so we had such a great success in um the last place I was at, Adelaide, um and it went on lots of news channels
	16:06	I don't think it's a real big mistake that then they upped the ante about it kind of opposing us or uh guilt by association and I'm afraid it is a tool it's just a tool of the left and maybe it used to be a tool of the right
	16:21	but at the moment this thing that we're doing it does seem to be a tool of the left and um it's, it's really it's... today was I think very very scary I think the police, being told by the police that they're afraid that they're going to get injured so us women have to stop talking is nuts it's nuts and something you must have encountered before
KD	16:42	Oh yes that fear of you know being injured you don't know where the threats are coming from and you know when we were in the crowd today and you're just looking around and that's one thing that I experienced in the election when you go out in public and there are those big herds of people or but like we had a mob we had a mob within a hundred metres of us
	17:03	And that mob mentality is really dangerous and you do not know where the threat is coming from you don't know if it's going to be behind you, you don't know if it's going to be someone in the um in our group who suddenly turns you don't know if it's the mob going to break ranks
	17:16	it is really quite viscerally scary and you think... you have those moments where you think my God all I'm doing is standing here saying: women have the right to sex based rights, stop messing with our kids, let us have our freedom of speech
	17:30	and this is the response people need to start waking up to the fact as to how powerful and how dangerous this movement really is I mean as we know they've infiltrated our, our institutions Our Judiciary our parliaments our media and so on and the fact that even the police are afraid of their violence
	17:50	I mean we need to ask who, who are the baddies here people because I don't think it was the group of middle-aged women standing there in our sun hats a few with our husbands listening to other women speak.
KJK	18:02	No, no, it's crazy, um do you think this will have any impact on politicians in Melbourne?
MD	18:11	Well there were a couple of other politicians in attendance today they didn't come up the front with me but they, to their credit were there listening and uh you know these conversations are going to keep happening,
	18:22	there's no avoiding this issue if people think that they can win the women's vote or the multicultural vote or any kind of swinging Vote or any kind of fringe uh you know like the votes that aren't rusted onto whichever party uh that they've always voted for if they think they can just keep on getting our votes without dealing with this issue I mean they're just in denial.
	18:44	You know the fact that we're all sitting here together tonight demonstrates that you know we will put everything else aside because this is for our own survival and for the survival of our children um you know there's nothing that we will not do to get these rights back.
KJK	18:59	Yeah.



<b>MD</b>	19:01	And you know and we have only ever acted within democracy it's those other people um and men who have threatened violence. It's not us we've just asked for the laws to be changed we've never threatened anyone we've never hurt... you know like you were saying those police had to protect um their own horses and their own people from them you know we were not the threat
<b>KJK</b>	19:23	Yeah I just wonder what I hope from this is well for a start I think we have changed the conversation in Australia I think that's a given I think it's been really successful so far and I think it will continue to be so
	19:36	but what I hope that when somebody watches it and they go sorry there are there are women talking about children's rights and women's rights is that what they're doing? And they don't want what that massive bloke in the school um and what I'm supposed to believe that they're fascists?
	19:54	I hope that people have enough about them that they start saying not only "that doesn't make any sense that sounds ridiculous" but also "well actually I agree that there shouldn't be men in women sports and I'm going to start speaking up because these women are clearly vilified"
	20:10	and um that's why I think a lot of people have started coming out because they're fed up with how women are treated when they do come out so uh we'll just we'll round up because we've, we've done about 20 minutes so we'll just say um final sum up of the event for you then Angie
<b>AJ</b>	20:29	AJ: It was great I'll do it again tomorrow it was good um you know I am disappointed that the media narrative has been about who was there not the women who spoke and the stories and the issue that we're trying to get across but we kind of expected that as well.
	20:44	um but yeah I just think um you know we're in desperate times here in Melbourne and you've seen that for yourself um and what we're up against.
	20:51	And um yeah and I think this we're at a turning point and you coming has been the perfect thing to tip it over the edge you know so let's hope that you know more people speak up and something actually changes.
<b>KJK</b>	21:03	Yeah thank you. Thanks. Kara, Katherine sorry I must start using your grown-up name
<b>KD</b>	21:11	I just want to say to the people who might feel a bit afraid you know you don't have to come to a rally but even afraid to speak in their own lives there is something really empowering and really freeing about speaking facts about being able to get up and, and speak your truth and talk about how you feel even in the face of you know extreme opposition.
	21:34	That feeling that you are that you are actually free and you are doing, doing something for yourself you're doing something for other women for children it's an incredible feeling
	21:45	so you know maybe have another think about speaking up in your own life because um It's really quite incredible I feel that way
<b>KJK</b>	21:53	Yeah. Moira?
<b>MD</b>	21:55	Um yeah that's fantastic I just wanted to reiterate along similar lines that uh you know they live in a house of cards we live in reality we won't stop we're not confused and we aren't tired someone pointed out to me that you know I was an idiot because this this law got changed in 2013
	22:15	as though being gaslit and abused for 10 years was going to stop us you know we're just warming up we will not stop this will not stand women will never stop until we get these rights back. End of story.
<b>KJK</b>	22:29	Well I would just like to say I'm absolutely delighted that I came to Australia um I knew Melbourne was going to be a particular Flashpoint
	22:38	I, it's the first time we've, I've experienced somebody right in like deranged right trying to get sort of make up their mark right in front of camera and grabbing the microphone um but fortunately nobody was injured um and that was a man.
<b>MD</b>	22:55	Well a woman was knocked unconscious and took, taken to hospital and I have bruises all over my shin.
<b>KJK</b>	23:00	Okay sorry.

<b>MD</b>	23:02	...from this uh this man who was just trying to grab the microphone.
<b>KJK</b>	23:06	Aside from somebody going to hospital.
<b>MD</b>	23:11	Well we only found out about that afterwards we didn't know until just recently, yes.
<b>KJK</b>	23:14	But look that that that won't stop us uh next stop is wherever I'm going next Tasmania, Hobart, um and then it's going to be Canberra and then we're coming to uh New Zealand which will be interesting
	23:31	I'm not even sure goodness knows I don't think anything can be quite as um Exciting um as today but yeah the speeches from Australian women have just been sublime uh it's like they've been holding their breath for quite some time and so have just come out with the most um wonderful things
	23:50	and the f word said in an Australian accent is particularly wonderful but thank you all of you thank you for your hard work in making this.
<b>MD</b>	24:00	Thank you for coming to Australia thank you for coming to Melbourne, we appreciate it.
<b>KJK</b>	24:03	Well here's to us being amazing cheers everyone [*all clink glasses*] and goodbye people at home.
<b>KD</b>	24:10	Good evening everyone.
<b>KJK</b>	24:12	Bye.