

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Sunday, 19 March 2023

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John Pesutto

Member for Hawthorn
Leader of the
Opposition
Leader of the Liberal
Party
Shadow Minister for
Multicultural Affairs

1 Yesterday afternoon Victorians witnessed an abomination on the steps of the
2 Victorian Parliament when neo-Nazi protesters engaged in an affront to the
3 values we should all hold dear as Victorians.

4 The violence, prejudice and hate that these protesters conveyed by their odious
5 actions will never be acceptable in our State. I condemn them and commit to
6 opposing such hate wherever it may exist.

7 This afternoon I met with Moira Deeming MP who attended yesterday's rally. I
8 discussed her involvement in organising, promoting and participating in a rally
9 with speakers and other organisers who themselves have been publicly
10 associated with far right-wing extremist groups including neo-Nazi activists.

11 At our meeting I informed Ms Deeming that I will move a motion at the next
12 party room meeting to expel her as a member of the parliamentary Liberal Party
13 as her position is untenable.

14 This is not an issue about free speech but a member of the parliamentary party
15 associating with people whose views are abhorrent to my values, the values of
16 the Liberal Party and the wider community.

17 The Liberal Party I joined and which I am now honoured to lead, must strive to
18 represent all Victorians.

19 Regardless of religious faith, race, sexual preference and identity, Victorians
20 everywhere should know that the Liberal Party is inclusive and can be a voice for
21 them.

22 No matter what our background we all share the abiding bond of an essential
23 humanity.

24 Equality of opportunity, the benefits to each and all of an enterprising culture,
25 the security that comes from the rule of law, the strength which stems from

26 families and communities that can live together in search of happiness while
27 sharing in Victoria's prosperity, must extend to all people who reside in our land.

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