

## Australia News Politics

EXCLUSIVE

# Sky News Australia reveals Moira Deeming speech that saw her avoid expulsion from Victorian Liberal Party on Monday

Sky News Australia has revealed the speech Moira Deeming gave to avoid expulsion from the Victorian Liberal Party, after she appeared at a Let Women Speak rally that was crashed by neo-Nazis.

Peta Credlin and Joseph Huitson

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98 comments



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Moira Deeming's speech to Liberal Party brought 'the room to tears'

Sky News host Peta Credlin has shared the speech Victorian Liberal Party MP Moira Deeming gave to defend herself from possible expulsion which "brought some in the room to tears".

Sky News Australia has obtained a copy of the emotional speech Moira Deeming delivered prior to avoiding expulsion from the Victorian Liberal Party.

On Monday [Ms Deeming was handed a nine-month suspension over her involvement with a Let Women speak event](#) that was crashed by a group of neo-Nazis.

Opposition leader John Pesutto backflipped on his earlier pledge to expel Ms Deeming, instead proposing the suspension after she provided new information which he said contained "important concessions".



Sky News Australia has obtained a copy of the emotional speech Moira Deeming delivered which saw her avoid expulsion from the Victorian Liberal Party. Picture: NCA NewsWire / Andrew Henshaw

Mr Pesutto had previously distributed a 15-page dossier of evidence to all MPs to support his motion for Ms Deeming's expulsion.

Ms Deeming has since strongly condemned the types of conduct within the dossier, which was another factor in Mr Pesutto's change of heart.

In the speech Ms Deeming told her colleagues that if they were to support the expulsion motion, then she and her family would be smeared as Nazi sympathizers in the eyes of the public.

"Your decision today, whether you like it or not, will be linked in the minds of the public, to the specific accusations and imputations in that dossier," she said.

"I want to remind you all that being accused of Nazism, in any degree, by the Liberal Party Parliamentary Team of Victoria is going to have heinous consequences for my life, the lives of my husband and our four children."



Opposition leader John Pesutto backflipped on his earlier pledge to expel Ms Deeming, instead proposing the suspension after she provided new information which he said contained "important concessions". Picture : NCA NewsWire / Nicki Connolly

She then spoke of the threats of violence and the hate mail that has been directed at her and her family in recent days.

"My husband and I have already begun to receive hate mail from people who've read those accusations, and now believe that we are white supremacists," she said.

"There have already been threats of violence against me, because of these accusations. A stranger has already attempted to trespass into our backyard where our children play.

"The Police have had to start doing regular patrols outside our home to help keep us safe. My Mother has already been mistreated due these accusations.

"We've already had threats to withdraw work opportunities because of these accusations. Our children have already been excluded from their activities and groups."

John PESUTTO confirms this - 9 month suspension. Following material supplied at 6.30am this morning including condemnation of types of conduct in Mr Pesutto's dossier. @SkyNewsAust #spri ngst <https://t.co/C1vFp2qai9>

— Simon Love (@SimoLove) March 27, 2023

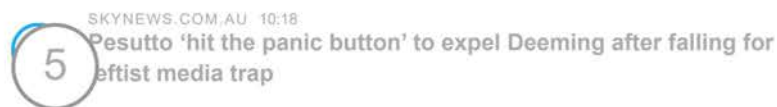
Ms Deeming also took the opportunity to reject allegations of Nazism and hatred towards the trans community, which she said "are 100 per cent false".

"But people will believe them if you support this motion to expel me," she added.

"So even if you don't like me, or you think my focus isn't mainstream enough, or you worry that I'm not a team player, please by all means deal with me.

"But whatever you do, please don't deal with me via this expulsion motion.

"Because it smears me and my family as Nazi sympathisers when it couldn't be further from the truth."



Victorian Opposition leader John Pesutto "hit the panic button" in moving to expel MP Moira Deeming from the Liberal Party after falling into the left media's trap, says Sky News Digital Editor Jack Houghton.

Ms Deeming also spoke about her own family connection to the Holocaust, revealing she was raised by her uncle who was a Jewish Holocaust survivor.

"My uncle's name was Emery Gellert and he was liberated from the Schachendorf Concentration Camp," Ms Deeming said.

"He and his wife- who died on the day of my maiden speech, were the two biggest influences in my childhood. They taught me how dangerous mindless hate and hateful labels really are.

"It was Uncle Emery's voice in my mind, which cautioned me not to call even vile young men raising their arms in a Nazi salute- Nazis, until I was 100% sure."

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On Sunday afternoon Ms Deeming issued a last-minute plea to her colleagues, urging them to vote against the motion.

"I respectfully write to ask that you vote against the motion to expel me from the Liberal Party Parliamentary team because I am innocent of these charges," she wrote in an email.

"I am a brand new MP and deserve the chance to learn from this, and because guilt by various degrees of association is not a standard that any one of us can avoid transgressing."

Last year, Victoria became the first state to ban the public display of the Nazi swastika and will move to ban the Nazi salute in coming months as a result of the controversial rally.

#### MOIRA DEEMING'S SPEECH TO THE LIBERAL PARTY ROOM

Good morning, Thank you for allowing me to speak.

In the last week, I've repeatedly been told that this motion to expel me from the Party Room isn't about the specific accusations made against me, but that it's about saving John and the Leadership team, or that it's about rebranding and modernising the Liberal Party, or that it's about the fear that I'm unteachable or 'not a team player'.

I'm not unsympathetic to these issues, and I'll happily address each of them in turn.

As to this vote being a way to save John and the leadership team, I would say that the best solution is to keep both John and I, and that we put forward a united front.

Look, I know many of you arc up at me being a Christian. But there's one good thing you can rely on me for because of my faith, and that's my commitment to humility and forgiveness. My priority is having my name cleared for my children and just to get back to work for the people of the Western Metro region. I'm happy to support the leadership team and to state that publicly.

As to this vote being a way to rebrand and modernise the Victorian Liberal Party.

In my defence I honestly didn't know that was part of our agenda. I've been operating on our Party platforms and stated principles, as I understand them. And so regardless of whether I'm expelled today or not, I honestly believe that for the good of our whole Party, that there needs to be a clear explanation of exactly what rebranding and modernising the Liberal party means. Our party members and supporters- not to mention each of us as preselected and elected Liberal Party MPs, need to be able to understand and articulate exactly what we do and do not stand for. That way we actually stand a chance of being a truly united front. So just to be clear, I don't have a problem with this- I just think we all need to be on the same page.

As to the concern that I'm unteachable or 'not a team player'.

I have repeatedly asked for help and guidance. I know I am a brand new MP and I need to learn the ropes. I am a team player. I like the team structure. I like to do my part. In the state election I was asked by senior Liberals not to speak to the media, and to outreach into the Muslim community. Which is exactly what I did, to support the leader and senior frontbenchers. But the main thing I wanted to do today, is remind you that I am a real person, I'm not just a political problem to be cauterized.

Your decision today, whether you like it or not, will be linked in the minds of the public, to the specific accusations and imputations in that dossier.

I want to remind you all that being accused of Nazism, in any degree, by the Liberal Party Parliamentary Team of Victoria- is going to have heinous consequences for my life, the lives of my husband and our four children. It will have negative consequences for anybody associated with me, like my brother, my parents, and my friends.

My husband and I have already begun to receive hate mail from people who've read those accusations, and now believe that we are white supremacists.

There have already been threats of violence against me, because of these accusations.

A stranger has already attempted to trespass into our backyard where our children play. The Police have had to do start doing regular patrols outside our home to help keep us safe. My mother has already been mistreated due these accusations. We've already had threats to withdraw work opportunities because of these

accusations. Our children have already been excluded from their activities and groups.

Our public and personal lives are intertwined whether we like it or not.

There are many facts about my personal life that many here, and certainly many in the media simply do not know. They reason that people don't know these things is because ordinarily I consider it repugnant to use them in political debates. But I've realised that I need to be vulnerable with you all so that you can understand me better and have confidence to brush off any lies you hear about me.

If you support this motion of expulsion, you will be supporting the idea that the first Victorian MP of Maori descent, who took in and cared for a Vietnamese asylum seeker with cancer, who is famous among her students for her WW2 History lessons, and who was largely raised by her uncle who was Jewish Holocaust survivor - is a Nazi sympathiser. My uncle's name was Emery Gellert and he was liberated from the Schachendorf Concentration Camp. He and his wife- who died on the day of my maiden speech, were the two biggest influences in my childhood. They taught me how dangerous mindless hate and hateful labels really are. It was Uncle Emery's voice in my mind, which cautioned me not to call even vile young men raising their arms in a Nazi salute – Nazis – until I was 100% sure.

It is not only untrue that I have Nazi links, but deeply and personally offensive and hurtful.

I note that many of you are confused and annoyed with me for persisting in talking about women's rights, intersex rights, gay rights, parents rights and safeguards for women and children. I assure you the reasons are completely and utterly based on love and compassion, not any sort of bigotry- and not even on religion or conservative politics.

When I speak on these issues, I speak from personal experience. My life has been marred repeatedly by rape- at the hands of men- from the age of four. I have been assaulted in public facilities. I was sexually harassed and assaulted by a teacher who later went to jail for having sex with minors. One of my best friends and biggest supporters is intersex. I know mothers and fathers whose own 15 year old children were operated on and made infertile and lost all sexual function- against their wishes. I have supporters who are happily transgender and supporters who are grateful detransitioners. My preselection character references include two prominent left wing lesbians. I am driven by a desire to make sure other children and women don't suffer like I did.

These allegations against me of Nazism and hatred towards the trans community are 100% false. But people will believe them if you support this motion to expel me.

So even if you don't like me, or you think my focus isn't mainstream enough, or you worry that I'm not a team player- please by all means deal with me, but whatever you do, please don't deal with me via this expulsion motion because it smears me and my family as Nazi sympathisers when it couldn't be further from the truth.

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