
From: Moira Deeming
Sent: Thursday, 4 May 2023 3:28 PM
To: Liberal MLC Members [REDACTED]; Liberal MLA Members
[REDACTED]
Subject: Suspension

Dear Colleagues,

In March, I attended a women's rights rally to support the right of women and girls to their own safe, single-sex spaces and activities. Although I broke no rules, spoke no unkind words, and was not the first nor last Liberal/National MP to appear at the same 'Let Women Speak' tour in Australia, I was then subjected to a motion from the Liberal Leadership to expel me on the grounds that I had brought the Liberal Party into disrepute. The dossier of evidence turned out to be a series of other people's social media posts that I'd never seen and an irreputable Wikipedia page that I am not even mentioned in. The other allegations made in various emails and media interviews that I had in any way associated with Nazism, Nazi's or bigotry were also false (and as I am advise, defamatory).

Following my speech in the party room meeting, the expulsion motion against me was withdrawn by the Leader. Then, encouraged by colleagues to help him save face and save his Leadership, I agreed to accept a nine-month suspension (without a formal motion or any attached grounds) in exchange for a joint statement from the Leadership and myself, that would exonerate me from all these false allegations and that allowed me the return, after 9 months, to the party room. I thought that we had drawn the issue to a close.

However, to date, I am the only one who has honoured that agreement. I am suspended, but there has been no joint exoneration statement and inconsistent messaging regarding my automatic return to the Party Room.

Since March, I have tried through a mediation process with the support of good colleagues like Kim Wells MP, to resolve the impasse and ensure the Leadership delivered on the commitment that was made to me when I accepted the suspension.

I am sorry to say that these attempts have failed. The Leadership have advised me that they will not work with me for a solution because I put a deadline on the issue after almost two months.

In light of the fact that the terms of the suspension have never been honoured and that even the minutes of that meeting have failed to be endorsed, I don't feel it is fair or just that I continue to sit outside the party room in limbo, nor do I believe that a legitimate suspension is actually in force, despite the fact that I sit on the cross bench as instructed.

Indeed, I listened carefully to the Leader's comment today in his press conference that "there was nothing in the dossier that ever accused Moira Deeming of being a Nazi or having any neo-Nazi sympathies". If that is the case, then why I am suspended? If that is the case, then why did John send an email associating me with Nazis and Nazism, and repeat those claims in the media multiple times? To even attempt to suspend me on the basis of that dossier is hardly the due process and natural justice that should be expected of the Liberal Party.

But despite all that, I have continued to try and work from within to resolve this issue. I have kept on doing the things I've been asked to do - I have not criticised the leadership publicly and done my level best to support the Liberal Party at all times. Unfortunately, the Leadership have chosen to continually run these issues through the media. So far, I have not sought a right of reply but I am now in a position where continued silence is damaging my name and reputation, my family and my mental health. To any reasonable observer, my treatment as a new MP has been unfair and extreme. This must not be allowed to become the norm!

As Liberals, we do ourselves a disservice when we cannot resolve this impasse after almost two months. We cannot be the viable alternative to the Andrews Government that Victorians need us to be unless we come together to resolve

these issues once and for all. I know that despite any differences we may have, that is ultimately what we all want. And our supporters want us to do better too.

Given that the Leadership did not make the statement of exoneration, or confirm my return, and that no mediation or even any minutes exist to settle this dispute, I have advised my lawyers to prepare a legal challenge over my suspension, because I believe that we need to come together as colleagues and have a do-over meeting. If my suspension is re-confirmed, we can make sure that the conditions are explicitly agreed upon and then we can all get back to working for Victorians. If a different motion is put, then we can work through that instead.

I hope that you will support my request, in the shared understanding that this issue simply cannot be allowed to go on any longer.

Kind Regards,

Moira Deeming MP

State Member for the Western Metropolitan Region

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