

LOCAL MP MOIRA DEEMING DENIED READMISSION TO LIBERAL PARTY

By: Matthew Younan

Date: 21/12/2024

It was a dark and difficult day for local MP Moira Deeming in the world of politics.

Mrs Deeming, the Western Metropolitan Legislative Council member whose office is based in Caroline Springs, was refused readmission into the Victorian Liberal Party, despite winning her defamation case against Victorian Opposition Leader John Pesutto.

Last week, the Federal Court ruled in Mrs Deeming's favour and found that Mr Pesutto had defamed the former high school teacher.

This ruling sparked strong support for Mrs Deeming within the party, with five Liberal MPs signing a letter calling for her reinstatement, requesting a vote on the matter.

However, despite the opposition leader having already cast his vote, when the tally was tied at 14-14, Mr Pesutto cast another final deciding vote to deny Mrs Deeming's readmission to the parliamentary party room.

Mrs Deeming expressed her "deep disappointment" at the outcome, sharply criticising Mr Pesutto. She said the Liberal Party should be led by someone "man enough to apologise and accept me back into the party room from which I should never have been excluded."

She says Mr Pesutto's "inability to admit his mistakes speaks volumes about his character and fitness for our state's highest office."

It is the third time Mrs Deeming has been publicly discriminated against and faced expulsion or been kept out of the party room without any justification after Mr Pesutto defamed her following her attendance at the Let Women Speak rally in March 2023 outside state parliament, then booting her from the parliamentary party room.

Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott described the outcome as "shameful," questioning how a member of the Liberal Party could be expelled based on a lie.

"A shameful result from the Victorian Liberal party room," Mr. Abbott tweeted.

"How can someone elected as a Liberal be expelled on the basis of a lie and not be readmitted once the truth is evident for all to see? Especially right before Christmas, the season of goodwill, this is a truly contemptible failure to act with honour and decency."

