



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA – COMMITTEES

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

### Terms of Reference

59th Parliament

---

#### **Inquiry into right wing extremism in Victoria**

*Self-referenced by the Committee on 7 February 2022:*

That the Legal and Social Issues Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 31 May 2022, on the following —

- a. the rise of the far-right extremist movements in Victoria in the context of —
  - i. social isolation and growing economic insecurity;
  - ii. racist scapegoating;
  - iii. the role of mainstream and social media;
  - iv. the distrust of governments and politicians;
- b. their methods of recruitment and communication;
- c. how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the growth of far-right extremism in the Victorian context;
- d. the risks their plans and actions pose to Victoria and especially to Victoria’s multicultural communities;
- e. the violent potential of these movements, including the potential for targeted violence against politicians and public figures;
- f. the links between far-right extremist groups, other forms of extremism, and populist radical right and anti-vaccine misinformation groups;
- g. what steps need to be taken in Victoria to counter these far-right extremist groups and their influence, including, but not limited to consideration of —
  - i. the role of early intervention measures to diminish the recruitment and mobilisation prospects of far-right extremist groups;
  - ii. the role of social cohesion, greater civil engagement and empowerment, and community building programs;

- iii. the submissions made to and, when tabled, the report by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security's Inquiry into extremist movements and radicalism in Australia; and
- h. any other related matters.