Legislative Assembly
Privileges Committee

Person referred to in the Legislative Assembly—Jane Young

Report
October 2026

Published by order, or under the authority, of the Parliament of Victoria
October 2026

ISBN 978 1 923877 08 5 (print version)
ISBN 978 1 923877 09 2 (PDF version)
This report is available on the Committee's website: parliament.vic.gov.au/la-privileges

Committee membership



CHAIR
Hon Lily D'Ambrosio
Mill Park



DEPUTY CHAIR
James Newbury
Brighton



Hon Melissa Horne
Williamstown



Danny O'Brien
Gippsland South



Hon Danny Pearson
Essendon



Richard Riordan
Polwarth



Hon Mary-Anne Thomas
Macedon

About the Committee

Functions

Extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, No 8 — Thursday 23 February 2023.

> **3 Committee Membership** — Motion made, by leave, and question — That:
>
> (8) A select committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon complaints of breach of privilege referred to it by the House, right of reply applications referred under SO 227 and any other matter referred to it by the House; and Lily D'Ambrosio, Melissa Horne, James Newbury, Danny Pearson, Mary-Anne Thomas, Peter Walsh and Kim Wells be members of the Privileges Committee
>
> put and agreed to.

On 26 November 2024 Hon Peter Walsh resigned from the Committee and on 27 November 2024 Danny O'Brien was appointed in his place.

On 29 July 2025 Hon Kim Wells resigned from the Committee and on 31 July 2025 Richard Riordan was appointed in his place.

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Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION: That the response by Jane Young in Appendix A be published with this report. **1**

Person referred to in the Legislative Assembly—Jane Young

On 28 September 2026 Jane Young made a submission to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly seeking redress under Standing Order 227 relating to the protection of persons referred to in the Legislative Assembly.

The submission referred to a statement made by the Member for Mornington, Chris Crewther MP, during statements by members on 14 November 2025. The Speaker accepted the submission and referred it to the Committee on 2 October 2026.

The Committee met in a private session on 19 October 2026 and resolved to consider Ms Young's submission and write to her requesting she prepare a draft response in consultation with the Committee secretariat.

On 22 October 2026 Ms Young submitted a draft response for the Committee's consideration. The Committee met again in a private session on 26 October and resolved to accept her response. The Committee met in a subsequent private session on 28 October and resolved to publish her response with this report.

The Committee notes Standing Order 227(5)(c), which provides that a submission received more than six months after the relevant comment was made in the House may only be considered where the applicant has demonstrated exceptional circumstances explaining the delay. Having considered the information provided by Ms Young, the Committee is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist and has therefore determined to accept her submission.

The Committee also draws attention to Standing Order 227(9) which requires that, in considering a submission under this Standing Order and reporting to the House, the Committee shall not consider or judge the truth of any statements made in the House or in the response.

RECOMMENDATION: That the response by Jane Young in Appendix A be published with this report.

Adopted by the Legislative Assembly Privileges Committee
Parliament of Victoria, East Melbourne
28 October 2026

Appendix A
Response by Jane Young under SO 227

I am the former owner and operator of Padua Kindergarten in Mornington, a small independent community kindergarten that I proudly operated for almost twenty years. From the age of 26 to 45, I dedicated my professional life to supporting children and families and building a service founded on care, integrity, trust, and community connection. As a woman, mother, business owner, and lifelong member of the Mornington Peninsula community, I remain deeply proud of what I achieved.

Prior to the comments made by Mr Chris Crewther MP in the Legislative Assembly, I had never met, spoken with, corresponded with, or had any dealings whatsoever with him. Throughout almost two decades of operating my business, I also had no involvement with the local council regarding the matters referred to in his comments made during debate in the Legislative Assembly on 14 November 2025. For that reason, I found it deeply distressing that my business was publicly identified and criticised by a person with no direct knowledge of me, my service, or the circumstances surrounding its closure.

The closure of Padua Kindergarten was the result of careful planning and professional advice. The lease was nearing its conclusion, the building owner had passed away, and significant building issues had been identified, with repairs estimated at approximately one million dollars. The closure was conducted appropriately and in cooperation with the Department of Education. Families were informed, enrolments had been intentionally reduced, communication channels remained available, and all required procedures were followed.

Prior to making his comments, Mr Crewther had been provided information explaining the circumstances surrounding the closure and advised that the matter was being handled appropriately. Despite this, I was never personally contacted for comment, given an opportunity to respond, or invited to clarify the facts before serious allegations and implications were placed on the public record.

The impact has been substantial. The parliamentary record remains publicly accessible and has affected my reputation, professional opportunities, financial standing, privacy, confidence, and wellbeing. Questions have arisen during finance applications and information connected to those remarks continues to circulate online.

What I find most difficult is that Padua Kindergarten was my life's work. I worked more than fifty hours a week for almost twenty years, rarely took leave, and sacrificed greatly to build a service that positively impacted hundreds of local families. Today, the comments made about my business continue to overshadow that legacy.

Appendix B
Extract from Standing Orders

227 Citizen's right of reply procedure

(1) Where a person (the applicant) has been referred to in the House by name, or in such a way as to be readily identified, he or she can send a written submission (the submission) to the Speaker asking for an appropriate response to be incorporated into the parliamentary record.

(2) The submission must include a claim that, as a result of the reference:

(a) the applicant has been adversely affected:

(i) in reputation; or

(ii) in relation to dealings or associations with others; or

(b) the applicant has been injured in connection with his or her occupation, trade, office or financial credit; or

(c) the applicant's privacy has been unreasonably invaded.

(3) The Speaker will refer the submission to the Privileges Committee (the Committee) if the Speaker is satisfied that:

(a) the subject of the submission is not so obviously trivial, or the submission so frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character, as to make it inappropriate that it be considered by the Committee; and

(b) that it is practicable for the Committee to consider the submission under this Standing Order.

(4) When a submission is referred, the secretary of the Committee will contact the applicant to draw his or her attention to the Committee's guidelines for preparing a brief draft statement in a correct form for incorporation.

(5) The Committee may decide not to consider a submission referred to it if:

(a) it considers that the subject of the submission is not sufficiently serious; or

(b) it considers that the submission is frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character; or

(c) the submission was received more than six months after the relevant comments were made in the House and the applicant has not shown exceptional circumstances to explain the delay—

and will report any such decision to the House.

(6) If the Committee decides to consider a submission, it may hold discussions with the applicant and any member who referred to the applicant in the House.

(7) The Committee will meet privately when considering a submission.

(8) The Committee will not publicly release a submission, or its proceedings in relation to a submission, but may present to the House minutes of its proceedings and all or part of a submission.

(9) In considering a submission and reporting to the House, the Committee will not consider or judge the truth of:

  (a) any statements made in the House; or

  (b) the submission.

(10) In its report to the House, the Committee may make either of the following recommendations:

  (a) that no further action should be taken by the House in relation to the submission; or

  (b) that a response by the applicant, set out in the report and agreed to by the applicant and the Committee, should be published by the House or incorporated in Hansard.

(11) The Committee will not make any other recommendations.

(12) A document presented to the House under paragraphs (8) or (10):

  (a) in the case of a response by an applicant, will be succinct and strictly relevant to the questions in issue and will not contain anything offensive in character; and

  (b) will not contain any matter, the publication of which would have the effect of unreasonably:

    (i) adversely affecting or injuring a person; or

    (ii) invading a person's privacy, in the manner referred to in paragraph (2); or

    (iii) adding to or aggravating any such adverse effect, injury or invasion of privacy.

(13) The Committee may agree to guidelines and procedures relating to its consideration of submissions, providing they are consistent with this Standing Order.