

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

Thursday, 24 August 2017

(Extract from book 14)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 10 November 2016)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Sullivan, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — #Mr Barber, Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning — #Mr Barber, Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmr, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Mr Barber, #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmr, Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Mulino, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Barber, Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Fire Services Bill Select Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson and Mr Walsh.

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Garrett and Ms Ryall.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon, Mr Northe and Ms Spence.

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards and Ms McLeish.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Gepp and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

Council — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁶	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ²	Western Metropolitan	AC	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁷	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁴	Northern Victoria	ALP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Appointed 16 April 2015

² DLP until 26 June 2017

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁴ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁶ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁷ Appointed 13 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

AC — Australian Conservatives; ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST 2017

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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Thursday, 24 August 2017

The PRESIDENT (Hon. B. N. Atkinson) took the chair at 9.34 a.m. and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Standing and sessional orders

Mr JENNINGS (Special Minister of State) — By leave, I move:

That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended so as to provide that the following be the order of business of the Council today —

- (1) a motion without leave pursuant to standing order 4.01(2);
- (2) statements by members in respect of the death of the Honourable Fiona Richardson, MP; and
- (3) the President to declare the house stands adjourned, without debate.

Motion agreed to.

Adjournment

Mr JENNINGS (Special Minister of State) — I move:

That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until 12.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 5 September 2017.

Motion agreed to.

HON. FIONA RICHARDSON, MP

Mr JENNINGS (Special Minister of State) — Late yesterday afternoon a wave of sorrow enveloped the Parliament when we heard of the passing of the Honourable Fiona Richardson, minister within the Andrews government, active and vibrant member of the Labor Party and Labor movement and representative of the people of Northcote in this Parliament.

In my experience of being in this place I have never seen such emotional devastation as came through the Parliament yesterday. It was very evident and palpable when the Labor Party caucus met as a family in the caucus room last evening and had a spontaneous outpouring of grief, sorrow and a great sense of shock and loss. I thank the Parliament today for the respect that it has shown Fiona Richardson and the grief that her family and her loved ones are experiencing by changing the business of the Parliament today to do nothing other than pay respects to her passing. This is not a condolence motion, so I will speak very briefly on this matter. Members of this chamber and members of

the community will have an opportunity to speak at greater length about the life journey, the experience and the contribution of Minister Richardson.

For those of you who will be engaging in conversations and appreciation of her life and discussing the influence that she has had on politics in this state, on the Labor Party in this state and most importantly on the policy areas of concern to her in this state, I encourage you to fulsomely, openly and warmly discuss those matters today and in the days to come. If you need reference points, they are very simple. I draw your attention to three things.

Have a look at the *Victorian Parliamentary Handbook*, and within the parliamentary handbook you will see the unique pathway that led Fiona Richardson to this Parliament. There is nobody else, I believe, in the history of this Parliament who has followed a personal journey such as hers to this place both in terms of her place of birth and in fact the experiences that she brought here.

If you need to have a greater appreciation of her as a person and as a politician and to know the true depth of her engagement with and her passion for dealing with family violence, read the extract of her contribution to the special parliamentary sitting on family violence in the other place, where she shared not only with the Parliament but with the community her personal story and the effect that her personal experience of family violence had on her not only as a person but as a politician, as a policymaker and as an unswerving advocate for the prevention of family violence into the future.

You should also reflect on the fact that Fiona Richardson was a person who was always thinking of things in terms of their political effect and their influence. She discounted her tears. She tried to say that under normal circumstances tears are a liability in Parliament. Indeed of the tears that have been shed by her colleagues in the last 24 hours, and will continue to be shed, she would actually pull people up and encourage them not to shed those tears, but I encourage them to embrace them fulsomely. I do so not out of disrespect to Minister Richardson, but I encourage all of us to be in contact with our emotions in relation to this issue.

If you need a deeper understanding, have a look at *Australian Story*, which brings together those two elements that I have spoken about in terms of her personal journey here — her personal commitment and her personal depth of engagement with family violence — to the screen.

If you need to know anything about her tenacity, there are a couple of things I want to draw to your attention. When she was ill in the last term of government she continued to be keenly interested in the transport portfolio, which was her responsibility, and she played a pivotal role in determining a major policy of the then opposition in relation to level crossings. She did so because of transport needs, but she also did it because she was a fundamental politician who actually knew the impact upon local investment and local benefits to a community which are extremely important in an electoral process.

If you want to know of her enduring tenacity, in the last few days, even though many of us did not know the acuity of her condition or foresee the untimely nature of her death, she sent emissaries to the government, through this Parliament, to make sure that the enduring effects of family violence were not lost. She was organising to the very end of what was a remarkable contribution to public life.

While I talk about the sorrow that was experienced by the Labor Party — the Labor family — nothing compares to the sorrow that has been exhibited and felt by her loved ones, which include her office colleagues. To Tanja and to others who work within Minister Richardson's office; to her mother, Veronica; to her children, Marcus and Catherine; and to her life partner, Stephen — and they were life partners in every sense in terms of the alignment of their personal and political values and their determination — we express our deep, deep condolences and our love and support for them in the days to come. I am sure other members of the chamber will join me in paying that respect to Fiona's loved ones. We are much the poorer for her passing.

Ms WOOLDRIDGE (Eastern Metropolitan) — It is an honour to be able to speak on behalf of the Liberals and The Nationals about the Honourable Fiona Richardson, MP, understanding that the condolence motion will obviously come later. What keeps going through my mind is it was too soon. She was too young, and she had so much more that she wanted to do.

We come to this place often as fierce adversaries, but underlying that there is always a respect for the fact that we come here because we want to make a difference to our communities and we are passionate about driving change. We also give respect, although sometimes grudgingly, for the achievements that people make in the time that we have here, as ministers, as a government and as members. Each of those is overwhelmingly the case for Fiona Richardson. There is no doubt that her leadership, her passion and her drive have saved, and will save, the lives of women and

children. There is no doubt that the futures of many children are different and positive as a result of her work.

I think most of us judge our time here by the impact that we have, and there is no doubt that for Fiona her impact and her legacy are enduring. What she has achieved will now require all of us to step up and make sure that her legacy can be delivered — and those shoes are very big shoes to fill.

From my perspective and on behalf of the coalition, our thoughts and sympathies are with Stephen, with Catherine and Marcus, the broader family, all her colleagues, staff, friends and community. May she rest in peace.

Mr BARBER (Northern Metropolitan) — This is a moment of sadness and tragedy. It is likely every member in this place has at some time experienced the loss of a loved one to cancer, and therefore our sorrow for Fiona Richardson's family, friends and colleagues across the political spectrum and the broader Labor family is sincere and heartfelt. At this time I cannot go beyond but simply wishing to echo the words of the Premier on the life's contribution and sad passing of Fiona Richardson. In her political life she knew no fear and tolerated no prejudice.

The PRESIDENT — Can I just indicate that it is a very long time since we have had a member of the Parliament die while in office, and that makes the passing so much more poignant, so much more difficult to comprehend and so much more difficult to share. But indeed Fiona's courage in fighting her illness demonstrated exactly the same tenacity that she brought to many of the issues that she championed. We were all shocked to hear the news last night, and we all join in our sorrow — our sadness, apart from anything else, that as Ms Wooldridge said, Fiona was at such a young age that indeed there is so much more that she could have accomplished in the interests of all Victorians and many Australians.

We do celebrate her achievements in this place, and as all three of the speakers have indicated, we will have a full condolence motion on the next sitting day, when members will be able to express their thoughts and perhaps to celebrate some of their friendships with and the achievements of the late Honourable Fiona Richardson.

At this time I say that the house stands adjourned.

**House adjourned 9.48 a.m. until Tuesday,
5 September.**