



FINN IN THE HOUSE

Speeches August to December 2021



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Point Cook Road

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My constituency question is to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. Point Cook Road is a disaster area for many thousands of local residents on a daily basis. It can take an hour or more to travel the length of Point Cook Road during peak hour, a trip that otherwise takes less than 10 minutes. Point Cook Road has not been improved since the days when Point Cook was largely populated by sheep in paddocks. Thousands of families now rely on Point Cook Road to get to work, school, recreation and just about everything else. Point Cook Road is currently making their lives a misery. Indeed I know some who have sold up and moved because they could no longer cope with Point Cook Road. Minister, what plans do you have to improve traffic on Point Cook Road, and when can we expect to see action on this important matter?

Government Performance

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— Since the last sitting of the Parliament the Premier, as we know, has returned from sick leave. Now, he immediately gave millions of Victorians hope that he had changed by announcing that lockdowns would be from here on in only used as a last resort. All very well and good, we thought, but he had Victoria back in lockdown within days—yet another Labor lie. Little wonder that people in this state have such a low opinion of their government. It is a bit like when the then Leader of the Opposition said before the 2014 election that the ripping up of the east-west link contract would cost taxpayers not a cent; \$1.3 billion later we discovered what an expensive lie that was. The same opposition leader at the time told us that an Andrews Labor government would introduce no new or extra taxes. Well, that whopper has cost Victorians a fortune. At that time Mr Andrews was promising

a \$550 million western distributor publicly, while at the same time he was negotiating privately the current West Gate Tunnel debacle with his shonky mates at Transurban. Victorians have well and truly had enough. They are entitled to have had enough. We have all had enough. Victorians have had enough of a dishonest and entirely dishonourable Andrews Labor government.

Energy Legislation Amendment (Energy Fairness) Bill 2021

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I rise to speak on the Energy Legislation Amendment (Energy Fairness) Bill 2021. Energy fairness indeed—well, the government, as we know, has a way with words. It does not have a way with governing but it certainly has a way with words, and they are at it again today. They would like us to believe this is about fairness. They would like us to believe this legislation is about giving people a fair go.

Before we go there, I will just give Ms Watt, who is relatively new to this place, a small spot of warning, and that is in regard to her credibility. Now, she can get away with a lot of things, as indeed many do in this place. She can get away with a lot of things, but once she starts singing the praises of Lily D'Ambrosio, her credibility is shot. That is it. It is all over. Because I do not think we have ever had in this state a worse energy minister than the current minister.

Now, let us have a look at the track record of the Andrews government, shall we? They would like us to believe that this legislation is coming to the aid of consumers. When was the last time this government came to the aid of consumers? It does not happen—it just does not happen. However, 1000 jobs gone—now, that is where the Andrews government excels. They know how to destroy jobs like nobody else, and you just have to have a look at

what is happening in Victoria at the moment. The last thing that we need in this state is another 1000 jobs gone. There are too many people who are on the headline now, there are too many people who are struggling for survival now, without abolishing another 1000 jobs—a quite extraordinary track record.

We have to look at this fair and square in the face. When it comes to energy policy, the Andrews government has been an unmitigated disaster. It is staggering, absolutely staggering, that we would have in this state of Victoria an energy crisis. In Victoria, so richly blessed with natural resources that we would be able to keep going with the amount of coal we have for hundreds of years, the gas that we have is providing or would be able to provide energy for us for centuries to come, we find ourselves in the extraordinary situation where we have an energy crisis. We have all these resources—richly blessed, as I say—but the Andrews government has found a way to screw it up. How do they do it? There must be a PhD in it somewhere, and they are all doctors with PhDs in my view. We have enough coal, enough gas, to serve our own needs and to serve the needs of most of Australia. Indeed we have probably got enough to export overseas as well. But instead we have the ideology of the left, and the ideology of the left serves no purpose to anybody in the consumer category. Indeed what we heard today from Ms Watt was quite extraordinary. She so hates competition that she told us that competition was anti-competitive. Now, I am going to go home tonight—I might have to have a drink and think about that for a while. When you hear members of the government trying to tell you that competition is anti-competitive, you have really got to wonder where they are coming from.

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Mr FINN: I do not know, Mr Ondarchie, what they have been smoking or what they are doing; it is absolutely beyond me. But keep in mind these are the people who forced the closure of Hazelwood. These are the people who are bringing forward the closure of Loy Yang, so we are going to see in the next few years 50 per cent of our power in this state gone—just disappeared. And what to replace it with? Well, we do not know. The

Premier apparently has an idea. It is currently in flames down near Geelong. So that is going to be very helpful. That is going to be marvellous for everybody.

We are going to lose 50 per cent of the power supply that we had just a few short years ago with nothing to replace it with. Then the government has the audacity to tell us that prices will fall. Well, I do not know—I am not an economic genius—but you do not have to have a degree in economics to understand that if you withdraw that degree of energy and the demand continues or indeed increases, the price is going to go up and it will continue. To hear members of the government talking about themselves as friends of the consumers—as friends of the poor, if you do not mind—what nonsense! I will tell you what: I was pretty angry before when I heard Ms Watt talking about members on this side not knowing what it is like to struggle because, I tell you what, I know what it is like to struggle. I have been there. I have sat around the table with the bills mounting, wondering how the hell I am going to pay for them. I have sat around the kitchen table wondering if indeed we can keep a roof over our heads, having to make a decision as to whether we pay the bills or we pay the mortgage.

Mr Ondarchie: You are not the Lexus left.

Mr FINN: Indeed, the Lexus left, Mr Ondarchie. I have certainly never been in that category, but I have been in the situation where I have wondered from one day to the next where the money will come from to pay the mounting number of bills on the kitchen table. So do not let anybody on the opposite benches try and tell anybody on this side what it is like to struggle, because many of us know. I remember some years ago, when I was running my own business, and beginning my own business in particular, how very, very difficult that was and just how hard pressed we were for a dollar back in those days. So do not let anybody from the Labor Party try and tell you that people on this side of the house do not know what it is like to struggle, because we do.

We are going to have this situation where we will have, I would say, in the summer major power failure. We will have major blackouts, as we had a few years ago when we had a reasonably warm summer. We have been fortunate that the last two

summers have been bits of duds. You cannot say that we have had hot summers the last two years—quite the opposite. But I will tell you what: the first time that a warm summer greets us we are going to go back to the blackouts. I remember a few years back when we had a reasonably warm summer there were blackouts all over the western suburbs of Melbourne. The west was blacked out from one end to the other. I raised it at the time in the house and requested the minister, Minister D'Ambrosio, explain what happened. She said there were a few problems. I said, 'A few problems? The entire western suburbs were blacked out,' and she said that we had a few problems but it was all sorted out now. The only problem was the following year the same thing happened. I assume that it was indeed the same sort of problem that they were having 12 months later.

The problem is that all of this could be avoided. The trouble is that the government does not want to avoid this because this government has a deep-rooted hatred of fossil fuels without any sense to it at all. They have an obsession with a thing called renewables—or, as I describe them, unreliaables, because we do not know. We cannot rely on wind because the wind does not always blow. We cannot rely on the sun because sometimes it gets dark. What are we going to do if there is no wind? What are we going to do if there is no sun? What are we going to do if Dan's battery continues to burn? What are we going to do for power in this state? It is not so long ago we had the most reliable and cheapest power supply in the nation, and then Daniel Andrews came along and changed all that. If people in this state or indeed interstate want to know what happened to Victoria, if they want to know what happened to the Victorian power supply, just have a look at Daniel Andrews and his government. They have trashed it. They have destroyed it. It is just extraordinary.

As I say, if you really want to see an example of the Andrews government's energy policy in action, drive down the highway to Geelong and have a look, because it is on fire and you can smell it. It is even worse than the government usually stinks. It is just appalling. Indeed I am getting many contacts from people down that way who are asking me what they are breathing

as a result of this fire. I cannot tell them. I assume they contacted me because I have been very concerned about what people in my own region will be breathing when the government dumps carcinogenic toxic soil in various parts of the west, and people in Geelong are now concerned about the same thing as a result of this nasty battery fire. But that is what they do. That is what these sorts of batteries do: they explode sometimes. It is one of the dangers indeed of electric cars that run on lithium batteries that these things just ignite—they blow up. I have to say that the enthusiasm that members opposite have for this mystifies me a tad given the dangers to life and limb that these pose. It is just extraordinary.

We currently find ourselves going down the same route as South Australia, and remember just a few years ago South Australia was a national joke. Well, Victoria is taking over. People would tell the joke: what did South Australians use before electricity—sorry, I have got that wrong; I have mucked up the joke. What did South Australians use before candles? They used electricity. That is the joke—delivered considerably better by others, it has to be said. But that was the joke, and now Victoria is going down the same path. South Australia had blackouts left, right and centre—all over the place. It did not matter whether it was summer, it did not matter whether it was winter; they just did not have enough power to keep the lights on, to keep the heating going, to keep the air conditioning going. They did not have it. Well, Victoria is going down the same path. And who do we have to thank? We have Daniel Andrews and Lily D'Ambrosio. They are the ones we can thank for destroying the reliability and the competitiveness of our power supply in this state.

Here they have legislation which is an anti-competitive piece of legislation but which is also legislation which is going to put at least 1000 people out of work. Whichever way you look at it, Victorians are losers under Labor. That is the bottom line. It is a great pity, and I am hearing this from so many people now. Whether it be on Facebook or whether it is when I am out talking to people, I am hearing this from everybody. People just cannot wait until November next year. They cannot wait to get

rid of the Andrews government. They see the disaster around them, they know that it is getting worse and they know that the longer the Andrews government is in power, if you will pardon the pun, the more they will continue to suffer. They cannot wait. They cannot wait until November next year so they can all get to the ballot box, they can all get to the polling booth, and vote this government out.

I hope that the Andrews government does not do the sort of damage I anticipate it will prior to the next election, but I can assure the house that the O'Brien government will act very, very quickly after the election next year to rectify the damage that the Andrews government has left, because the legacy that Daniel Andrews leaves is every Victorian sitting in the dark.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
03 August 2021**

Point Cook Road

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My adjournment this evening is for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. It concerns an area that I have expressed a great deal of concern about now for a number of years, and that is the area of Point Cook and in particular Point Cook Road. It does not actually intersect with the Princes Freeway, but it causes a major problem as it attempts to take the traffic from Point Cook Road to the Princes Freeway.

Now, what we have at the bottom of Point Cook Road is a roundabout. We have a constant stream of traffic coming in from Altona Meadows and areas such as this as well as Point Cook and Sanctuary Lakes. They are expected to get to the freeway by crossing a one-lane bridge and then travelling through a couple more roundabouts, through the main town centre of Laverton and then through, again, a very narrow road onto the freeway. Now, it is absolutely ridiculous that VicRoads have not done anything about this in years gone by. In fact it is a scandal of some considerable proportion, in my view, that the government and previous governments have allowed this area to grow in the way that it has grown without providing the infrastructure to allow them to actually get out of the place, because a lot of people are feeling a little bit

claustrophobic in that they have difficulties in getting out of Point Cook, getting out of Sanctuary Lakes or getting out of Altona Meadows without some considerable difficulty. Whether it be a diamond interchange or just an interchange of some other sort, we need it, and we need it now. In fact we needed it 10 years ago.

What I am asking the minister to do tonight is to put in place a process whereby that will be delivered. I am asking the minister to start the process to ensure that we have a free-flowing traffic situation from Point Cook Road over the freeway or onto the freeway so that people can get to work, they can get to school and they can get to wherever they want to get to without having to spend an inordinate amount of time waiting in the traffic on Point Cook Road just to get onto the freeway. An interchange, I believe, will fix that. It is long overdue, so I am asking the minister now to put that into progress. Let us get this show cracking.

**COUNCIL | Motions
04 August 2021**

Government Performance

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — Here we go again. There is one thing that is abundantly obvious to anybody who takes even a passing interest in what goes on in this state—very obvious to everybody: that the Andrews government is corrupt to the core. This government is crooked. This government is corrupt. And this is yet another example of the corruption of this government. That they would use taxpayers funds to do polling to help themselves electorally is yet another example of them helping themselves to public money to prop themselves up, to put them in a strong position—or a stronger position, I should say.

But they have been caught this time again with their fingers in the till. It is not the first time, as Mr Davis pointed out not so long ago. It is not the first time at all; we have seen this become a regular event over the seven years of the Andrews government. We have seen this time and time again—where they have used public money for blatant partisan political reasons. We have seen this government using public money to prop up their mates—and

it is well known in the business community. You do not have to go too far at all to find people who will swear black and blue that if you are not a mate of the Labor Party, if you are not in the inner circle, if you are not doing the right thing by the Andrews government, you have got no hope of getting any sort of decent tender. You have got no hope in any competitive tender process. That, unfortunately, is not just the perception in the business community in this state and indeed interstate, but it is the fact.

This government specialises in jobs for the boys and jobs for the girls. If you are not in with this government, you have got no hope. You have got no chance of getting hold of some of the largesse that this government wants to, and is prone to, give out to all its mates. What we are seeing here, even worse, is a Premier and a government that are being directed on a very important public issue of health by polling. Now, this could explain the recent backflip by the Premier, who, when he came back—the very day he came back—from his sick leave, made the announcement that lockdowns would be as a last resort from here on in. 'Hallelujah!', we cried across the state. From one end of Victoria to the other you could hear the cry of celebration that at last the Premier had come to his senses. But, no, obviously the Premier looked at some polling again, which he does every day, and within days we were back in lockdown. That is the only excuse, the only reason one can find for such an extraordinary backflip by the Premier of this state. He is constantly being fed polling material paid for by the taxpayer and is locking us down as a result.

Of course we have seen in this state what the impact of those lockdowns—1, 2, 3, 4, 5—have had in this state to this point. One just has to walk down the steps of this building and walk down Bourke Street to see the devastation that those lockdowns have caused. One does not have to look very far from this building to see empty shop after empty shop, closed restaurants—you name it, the economic devastation is there for all to see. Of course every time a small business or a restaurant goes bust, not only do the owners lose their dreams and possibly their homes as well but employees lose their jobs and unions—this is probably something the government has not thought of—lose their members,

because you have got to have a job to be a union member, and when people lose their jobs obviously they will not be in the union. So that might be something that the government might like to think about next time they are tempted to lock us down again. But here we have a government which is making major decisions based on what the pollsters are telling them—not on what Brett Sutton is saying or not on what we have heard from the public health people.

This would be why the government refuses point-blank to release the public health advice that they supposedly use to lock us down. They refuse point-blank, and we have had a motion. And Minister Leane—I can understand why he is very touchy on this subject. If I was in his position, I would be embarrassed too. I would be horrified at what my Premier was doing. I would be appalled as well. But here we have a government making decisions on the advice of a pollster instead of the advice that they should be acting on, and that is professional health advice. It is beyond belief almost, but sadly it is true, and it is actually happening in Victoria in 2021. We saw it in 2020; it is happening in 2021. It will probably happen in 2022 as the election draws near next year.

So I am hopeful that the crossbench will join us today in referring this matter to the Ombudsman. And one has to say that if the government wants to claim credit for creating jobs, it has certainly created jobs in the Ombudsman's office, because it has been referred to the Ombudsman before, and the Ombudsman is keeping a very close eye I would imagine on just about everything this government does, because they know, I am sure. And I do not want to speak for the Ombudsman, but they along with every other Victorian are only too aware of how crooked and how corrupt the Andrews government is. So I am hoping, and I am asking the crossbench today to join with us to refer this matter to the Ombudsman to ensure that Victorians find out exactly what has happened here. If members of the government, and we have heard from Ms Taylor today, say, you know, 'Oh, it's all hunky-dory. There's nothing wrong here, nothing to see here, move on'—

Mr Davis: They gave no explanation.

Mr FINN: And there is no explanation, as Mr Davis says.

Mr Leane interjected.

Mr FINN: If that is the case—and Minister Leane will, I am sure, endorse this—then this government will have not a problem supporting this motion. They will have not a problem referring this matter to the Ombudsman for full investigation. If they have got nothing to hide, let the Ombudsman investigate and let the Ombudsman clear them. If they have got nothing to hide, let us pass this motion unanimously today. Let us get this matter cleared up. Let us get this appalling accusation of corruption—or an accusation of appalling corruption, perhaps I should say—and let us clear this matter up for all time.

So I challenge members of the government to support this motion. If you have nothing to hide, let us investigate this. Let us see exactly what has happened, and if you have got nothing to hide, if you have done the right thing, then I will be very pleased. I for one will be very pleased. But until that time, the Victorian public are perfectly entitled to ask, 'What the hell is this government doing?'. Why is this government so corrupt? Why is this government so crooked? Why is this government constantly stealing our money and using it for their own purposes? Why is this government treating the people of Victoria in this manner? Until this matter is cleared up, the people of Victoria are well entitled to ask that question.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
04 August 2021**

Toxic Soil: release of health advice

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, and I draw the minister's attention to the ongoing grave concerns of residents living near sites in Bulla and Ravenhall chosen by the Andrews government and Transurban to house carcinogenic toxic soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project. Despite constant objections, local residents feel they have been railroaded by the government. Assurances from everyone from the Premier down that the poisonous material to be

dumped in Melbourne's west poses no threat to anyone have done nothing to allay fears of locals that their health is taking a very poor second to a dodgy deal with one of the Andrews government's mates. They feel their health is playing second fiddle to the profits of a multinational corporation. Minister, will you release any health advice that you have to calm the worries of my constituents who feel this way?

**COUNCIL | Motions
04 August 2021**

Sessional Orders (Lord's Prayer)

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise to speak on notice of motion 601—the move to do away with the Lord's Prayer in the parliamentary proceedings of this house. There are two questions I think that jump up at the very beginning. Firstly, why now? In the middle of a pandemic, at a time when a lot of people are very concerned about their health, a lot of people are very concerned about their economic future, if indeed they have one, and at a time when people are physically marching in the street about their civil liberties, there are so many things we should be worried about apart from ditching the Lord's Prayer. One has to wonder what thought processes went into doing that right now. The other question that intrigues me is why we would want to remove a prayer or any form of words that promotes love, peace and forgiveness. I would have thought that is something that we should be embracing. I would have thought that is something we should be dying to hold on to. But instead we have this motion before the house today.

Now, why, why, why? Well, the answer is very clear: that there are some people with an agenda that they have been pushing now for some years. And I am not just talking about Ms Patten; I am talking about the government and I am talking about a number of people about the place. It is an agenda that is anti-family, it is anti-faith and it is anti-freedom. And that is something that we have seen in a number of forums over recent years—something that we should all be very deeply concerned about. This motion is, despite what some may have said,

Bulla Hill road barriers

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter on the adjournment this evening for the attention of the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. I recently visited a couple of constituents who live on the infamous road on Bulla hill after they had contacted me to express their concerns about the increasing truck traffic on Bulla hill and the dangers that they believe these trucks pose to them and to their home. I visited them on a wet afternoon whilst a good number of trucks were roaring past, and I have to say when you are faced by B-double coming down a hill at you full pelt, it is pretty terrifying. I experienced that on that particular occasion, and I can fully understand why my constituents are concerned about what may or may not happen if the trucks were to not take the turn and were to in fact go through their home.

What they have expressed to me is that they understand that living on the Bulla hill means there is going to be traffic, but the number of trucks that we have seen has been quite extraordinary over recent months. Given that the government and Transurban have decided that Bulla is going to take carcinogenic toxic soil—thank you, Daniel Andrews—they are deeply concerned about the increased number of trucks. We understand there will be somewhere around about 800 extra trucks a day on that particular road, and these people are genuinely concerned as to their safety, and I quite frankly do not blame them. As I say, having seen the trucks and having seen the dangers that they pose, I will believe what they tell me. As I say, having experienced it I think they have more than a fair point.

What I am asking the minister for roads to do is to provide appropriate protection along the sides of the road on Bulla hill to stop trucks as much as possible from careening off the road and into the houses that are on the side of the road on Bulla hill. We need some substantial structures. I am not just talking about a couple of signs saying ‘Go back where you came from’ or something like

an attack on Christians and it is an attack on Christianity. But make no mistake, Christians and Christianity are not the only targets of the people behind this motion, because once they have finished screwing over the Christians, they will go after the Jews, then they will go after the Muslims, then they will go after anybody and everybody who gets in the way of their agenda, because that is what this is about. They do not dislike Christianity because it is Christianity; they dislike Christianity because it stands for the things that they do not want.

Ms Patten: On a point of order, Acting President, that was an extraordinary attack. It was an attack, and it was likening me to someone who would be against Jewish people and Muslim people. It was an insult. It was misleading and it was an insult, and I would ask that the member withdraw.

Mr FINN: On the point of order, Acting President, I did not even mention Ms Patten’s name. I said ‘those behind this motion.’

Members interjecting.

Mr FINN: Look, I know Ms Patten is not the only one behind the motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Gepp): We are now debating. There is no point of order. Mr Finn did not refer to anyone in particular.

Mr FINN: Thank you, Acting President. This agenda is very, very real, it is very, very dangerous and it is one that we should take very, very seriously. This motion today should be a call to arms not just to religious people throughout the state and not just to civil libertarians throughout the state but to everyone who cares about their faith, who cares about their families or indeed who cares about our future. That is something that is desperately needed.

Ms Symes: On a point of order, Acting President, I just question the accuracy of Mr Finn’s comments about the validity of religion when they are coming out of the mouth of a man who used his religion to hide behind and claimed that he could not be here on Good Friday and then turned up.

Mr Finn interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Gepp): Mr Finn, there are procedures in this place, and if we all follow them—

Mr FINN: Yes, and she is abusing them, and you are letting her.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Gepp): I will invite you to withdraw that remark—the reflection on the Chair—and then I will invite you to make a submission on the point of order.

Mr FINN: On the point of order, Acting President, I withdraw any reflection on the Chair, of course. My 5 minutes is up, but I just say I can understand why the Leader of the Government is so upset, because her agenda is the same as Ms Patten’s agenda—and it has now been exposed. So I urge members to oppose this motion. I certainly will, and I thank and congratulate every single person who has put finger to keyboard over recent times to send a message to me and others opposing this motion.

COUNCIL | Constituency questions 05 August 2021

East Werribee precinct land

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Planning. The East Werribee business and employment precinct was conceived by the Baillieu government as a shining jewel in Melbourne’s west. It was planned to provide significant numbers of jobs that would not just boost the local economy but provide much-needed relief for the West Gate Freeway as many who now use the freeway would be working much closer to their homes. When announced, it was accompanied by much excitement about the enormous benefits the East Werribee precinct would bring to the Wyndham municipality and beyond. This enthusiasm is still very much alive whenever the project is mentioned. Recent announcements by the Andrews government have added to the confusion surrounding the project’s future. Concerns have been expressed that the land set aside for the business and employment precinct may end up being part of a fire sale by a government strapped for cash. Minister, what is the current status of the land to which I refer?

that. What we need are substantial structures which will in fact stop the trucks from careening through these people's homes. I ask the minister to provide that as a matter of urgency.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
17 August 2021**

COVID-19

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter this afternoon for the attention of the Premier, and I will get my comments in hopefully before the government shuts the Parliament down completely. The Premier returned from his sick leave recently and made a statement that from this point on lockdowns would be as a last resort. Since he made that statement Victoria has been in almost constant lockdown.

Small businesses are suffering enormously. Many have gone to the wall. Many have just given up altogether. Many small business people have seen their life's work disappear. They have lost their businesses, they have lost their homes in many instances, they have lost their families and indeed some, tragically, have taken their own lives. This is a direct result of the constant lockdowns that Victoria has faced over the past 18 months. It is impossible for businesspeople to make a dollar or to keep their business profitable if they are not allowed to operate. If they are not allowed to function as a business, if they are not allowed to conduct their business, of course they are going to go under.

That is what has happened in so many instances, and it is just tragic to see, whether it be in the country or indeed in the city. I think in the city, particularly the CBD, it has been devastating. As I have said in this house before, all one has to do is walk down Bourke Street, as I did this morning, to see the devastation that is obvious to all: the number of empty shops, the number of 'For lease' signs and the number of restaurants—some very good restaurants, I might say—that are no longer operating. It is a tragedy. I have to say for every closed shop, for every closed restaurant, there is a story behind that that affects maybe hundreds of people. Whether it be the owners, whether it be the managers, whether it be the waitstaff

or the counter staff, whoever it may be, it is something that impacts a huge number of people. It is heartbreaking to see what is going on in this city at the moment, particularly in the CBD. If you want to go out a little bit further, out my way, to Tullamarine airport, the roads in are empty, the terminals are empty, the tarmac and the runways are empty and the skies above are empty. It is a tragic scene by any measure. This has to stop. We cannot keep going like this. It is impossible for anybody to see any future for this state if we continue in this way. I ask the Premier: please, Premier, tell us 'No more lockdowns.'

**COUNCIL | Members statements
07 September 2021**

COVID-19

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I have to say to this house that I love this great nation of Australia but I do not love what Australia has become. The Wuhan virus has given egotistical state premiers the opportunity to indulge their deepest dreams of total power—and haven't they grabbed the opportunity with both hands. These premiers and territory first ministers have effectively defederated our nation. Scenes on the New South Wales-Queensland border this past Sunday were truly astonishing, as children leaned across the great divide to embrace their dads on Father's Day. Embracing Dad of course in Victoria was a criminal offence; one would never try it here. Entry into Western Australia is at the discretion of a totally out of control Premier, and if you do not believe me, ask Eddie McGuire. I am not sure how one gets into South Australia, but then again I am not necessarily keen to get there anyway. The father of Federation, Sir Henry Parkes, would not recognise Australia in 2021. We are now eight competing colonies. It is unbelievable, astounding. I miss Australia, and I want Australia back. Every Australian wants our nation back.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
07 September 2021**

Release of public health advice

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is for the Minister for Health, and I refer to recent outbreaks of the Wuhan virus throughout various parts of Melbourne's west. These outbreaks have caused significant concern and not just a little inconvenience to many hundreds of thousands of local residents. It has also caused many residents to feel discriminated against and blamed by the rest of Melbourne for the latest extended lockdown. Some heavy question marks hang over the west as we seek to find out what caused the outbreaks and how they can best be handled. Minister, what public health advice do you have on these outbreaks in the western suburbs, and will you release it so that those for whom it is intended—the public—will be able to read it for themselves?

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
08 September 2021**

Sunbury Road truck safety

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure. The massive number of trucks now using Sunbury Road have made anywhere between Melbourne Airport and Sunbury the place not to be. Large rocks often fall off the back of B-doubles carrying soil from construction sites around the city. I have almost come to grief a couple of times; I have had to dodge these rocks lying on Sunbury Road. My great fear is that one or more of these rocks will soon fall on the windscreen of a car and cause a major crash. It is probably nothing short of a miracle that it has not happened already. As many hundreds more trucks every day carrying carcinogenic toxic soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project will probably soon hit Sunbury Road, the danger will obviously increase. Minister, what are you doing to protect my constituents from trucks

carrying soil from major projects that you are responsible for?

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
08 September 2021**

COVID-19 Vaccination

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I wish to raise a matter for the attention of the Attorney-General. I have been deeply concerned of recent times by statements by the Premier that he will actively discriminate against people who do not consent to being vaccinated or indeed, perhaps worse, those who cannot for health reasons be vaccinated. That seems to me to be very much against the spirit, if not the law, in this state of equal opportunity, and to hear that sort of thing coming from the Premier horrifies me. I have been advising people in my electorate. To those who have asked me about vaccination, I have said, 'Speak to your doctor. If your doctor says, "Get vaccinated", get vaccinated.' That is fair enough. I am fully vaccinated, so I am not an anti-vaxxer. But I am very deeply concerned that we have a Premier in this state who is seeking to actively discriminate against people who make a free choice; that is something that I think we all should be very concerned about. So I ask the Attorney-General to investigate if indeed the Premier's statements are a breach of the law, and perhaps not advise me, not advise the Parliament but in fact advise the Premier, because he is the one that needs to know more than anyone.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
09 September 2021**

Multicultural media grants

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My constituency question is to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I welcome the minister's recent announcement of \$1.25 million in grants for multicultural media outlets to assist during these very difficult times. Whilst welcoming these grants, there is one that has been brought to my

attention by constituents in the City of Brimbank. Hakki Suleyman is an individual who creates fear and loathing throughout much of Melbourne's west. I am sure the minister will recall his involvement in the Brimbank council debacle that led to a damning Ombudsman's report and the subsequent sacking of that council. The minister will, I am sure, recall how Hakki Suleyman used then minister Justin Madden's electorate office as a tool in his political weaponry to build his personal fiefdom. Many in Brimbank are horrified that Hakki Suleyman has received any form of government grant. They do not regard him as someone worthy of such funding. Given Mr Suleyman's record in Melbourne's west, Minister, do you agree with my constituents, and if so, why was this disreputable individual the recipient of government largesse?

**COUNCIL | Members statements
14 September 2021**

COVID-19 Vaccination

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— Of all the crimes committed by the Andrews government against the people of Victoria, the one recently proposed by the Premier, to declare a sizeable proportion of the population second-class citizens, is arguably the worst. Daniel Andrews's threat to exclude those who will not or cannot be vaccinated from the economic life of this state is an outrageous attack on, if the polls are to be believed, up to 20 per cent of Victorians. This is intolerable. I raise this today not because I am an anti-vaxxer—because I am not—but because I believe in the basic human rights of my fellow Victorians. Every sane person in the state has the right to deny medical treatment. That is a well-established fact in law and in practice. Instead of threatening and bullying, the Premier would better serve the state if he directed his energies to convincing the unconvinced that vaccines are safe and necessary. The Premier should show the Victorian people the respect they deserve, and he should most certainly show them the respect for their rights that they deserve as well. If he cannot, he should do us all a favour: he should visit the Governor and he should resign.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
14 September 2021**

Brimbank homelessness support

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I direct my constituency question to the Minister for Housing, and I also direct the minister's attention to correspondence from the mayor of Brimbank, Cr Ranka Rasic, a copy of which the mayor has very kindly provided to me as well. I endorse Cr Rasic's comments about the need for more homelessness support in the municipality. It has long been a matter of great personal distress to me to see some of the circumstances that many locals are forced into to avoid literally living on the street. It is heartbreaking to see children in particular in this situation. More social housing is clearly the long-term answer, but we need action now. Will the minister agree to implement requests put to him by Brimbank City Council to ease what is a dreadful situation?

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
14 September 2021**

COVID-19 Vaccination

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My adjournment matter this afternoon is for the attention of the Premier. I have to say that I have been absolutely horrified and appalled by the suggestions by the Premier of recent times that he is going to implement some sort of two-tiered Victoria where we are going to have some citizens that are okay to do whatever they like and other citizens that indeed are second class. That seems to me to be appalling in every way, as I say. The suggestion is that people will be locked out of the economy; they will be locked out of their jobs as it were. Another suggestion is that they will be locked out of health care; people who are not vaccinated will not be able to access the public health system. It is just an outrageous attack on the human rights of the people of this state.

I have to ask: whatever happened to ‘We are all in this together’? Whatever happened to that? Here we have the Premier making it very, very clear that we are not, that those who choose not to be vaccinated or indeed, perhaps more importantly, those who cannot are going to be treated as second-class citizens. This seems to me to be overreach of the worst order, and something that cannot be tolerated in Victoria. We have seen a lot of things happen in this state over the last couple of years, but this is way, way over the top and cannot be tolerated.

I am asking the Premier this afternoon to respect the rights of the citizens of this state and to reject any form of discrimination on the basis of who is vaccinated and who is not, and I am asking him particularly to follow the example of the UK government and publicly reject universal vaccine passports in this state.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
15 September 2021**

City of Maribyrnong commercial venture

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the acting Minister for Local Government. Yesterday the mayor of the City of Maribyrnong, Cr Michael Clarke, proposed a plan by which the council would establish some sort of plant, presumably, for the production of medical cannabis. Last night, much to my surprise, the full Maribyrnong council endorsed Cr Clarke’s plan. Now, my support for medical cannabis is on the public record, so that is not the issue. My concern is this municipal council extending itself to risk the ratepayers’ hard-earned on a commercial venture. Even in the widest reading of the role of local government it is impossible to see how this enterprise can be justified. I like Cr Clarke, and I am very happy to work with Cr Clarke on a range of matters aimed at bringing benefit to the people of the municipality of Maribyrnong, but this is not one of them. Acting Minister, what is the Andrews government’s attitude to

Maribyrnong council’s leap into private enterprise, and does it set a precedent for other councils starting their own businesses?

The PRESIDENT: Sorry, members, I am struggling a bit to understand the bells when someone is not here. I know I have got a couple of names on the list in front of me of people who are not in the chamber. I was checking with the Clerk what the temporary orders say. I have to ring the bells for every contribution. I do not think this is on, but I have to follow the temporary orders. I am just putting you on notice. I will look into it.

**COUNCIL | Motions
15 September 2021**

West Gate Tunnel

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise to support the motion moved by Mr Davis on the West Gate Tunnel Project, and I tell you what, when it comes to the West Gate Tunnel Project it is very difficult to know where exactly to start. I think it is worth going back just to give a small precis. I was chair of the committee that oversaw this project some years ago, and I recall thinking to myself then, ‘There is something that is very, very wrong here’—and nothing has changed since. I have to say that having seen what I have seen over the last, what is it, five years—and I have said this publicly before, so I suppose it should come as no surprise to anybody—it would not surprise me at all if, when this project is fully examined, perhaps by IBAC, somebody or other or more than one person in fact might end up in jail.

There is something desperately wrong with this project, and I am deeply concerned, particularly as a representative of the western suburbs, that the people of the west are getting screwed over here quite comprehensively, because this project was designed by Transurban for Transurban and the only beneficiary of this project in fact will be Transurban. It seems to me that any perceived benefit—and I say ‘perceived’ because there is not going to be any real benefit—that the people of the west might have from this project is a very, very long way away. That is something that we do not deserve, because we had the promise of the east-west link, which was going to give us the answer to the

traffic problems that are strangling the western suburbs of Melbourne. But instead the Andrews government gave this very, very dodgy deal to its dodgy mates at Transurban, and the people of the west are going to suffer.

Not only are many of us particularly in the north-west paying extra tolls—higher tolls on the Tulla, on CityLink—but we are also having to wait for an extended period for a tunnel. Well, you have got to wonder if it is ever going to be finished or not. And even when it is finished, it is quite extraordinary that anybody would have put up a project that is going to do for the western suburbs what the Eastern Freeway and Hoddle Street do for the eastern suburbs. Why would you do that? I do not understand that. I have asked numerous people if they can explain it to me, but they cannot. Members opposite cannot. We had the CEO of Transurban before us when we were on the committee, and Mr Ondarchie will back me up here, because we sat there looking at Mr Charlton thinking to ourselves, ‘What have we got here?’—

A member interjected.

Mr FINN: And I don’t expect you’ll get one either, I have to say. We had the secretaries of various departments in. None of them had any idea what was going on. All they did was deny, deny, deny that anything was happening between Transurban and the government. Well, those denials were barefaced lies, and in my view, given they were giving sworn testimony at the committee, and as far as I am concerned, those lies were a contempt of the Parliament because it is very, very clear—and I think I am the only one listening to this—

Mr Ondarchie: On a point of order, Acting President, the contribution of the member is very important to this debate, and unfortunately there are a lot of conversations going on from the front of the room all the way back. I wonder if you could bring the chamber back to order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Ms Patten): Thank you, Mr Ondarchie. Yes, we will try and bring the roar down to a steady purr, as it were.

Mr FINN: Thank you, Acting President. I am all in favour of a steady purr. I thank Ms Pulford for her support during that time and also of course Mr Ondarchie, who sat with me through that committee that I have been speaking of for quite some time. Quite frankly, anybody

COVID-19 Vaccination

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I wish to raise a matter this afternoon for the attention of the Minister for Education. I have expressed on a number of occasions my deep concern at the constant attempts of this government to undermine parental authority. Parental authority is something in my view that is very important for the protection of children, and anything that undermines that is obviously going to cause problems in the overwhelming majority of cases.

It has been brought to my attention by a number of constituents over the last couple of days that a letter has gone out from the minister's department to parents, to guardians and to carers that the Wuhan virus vaccine is available to children aged between 12 and 15. From what I read in this letter, in certain instances—it may be the majority of instances—parental authority is not needed for the administration of the vaccine. This will be judged by some unknown person who will judge as to whether the child is mature enough to make a decision as to their medical decisions. Apart from anything else, this is a dreadful precedent. There have been a lot of people very concerned for a very long time about what goes on in some schools with school doctors and so forth, where decisions are being made, sometimes by children, sometimes for children, without even the knowledge of parents, much less their authority.

I think in this particular instance we have got to draw the line; we really do have to draw the line. Anybody under 18 in my view who has a medical procedure done should have the authority of their parents or their guardian or their carer. That is something that we should stick to as a rock-solid principle. Unfortunately in this particular instance, and as I say in a number of others I believe, that is not the case. What I am doing today is asking the minister to reinforce the principle of parental authority in schools, to withdraw that letter that went out to however many parents and guardians over recent days and

who examines the transcripts of the committee inquiry will come to the exact same conclusion that I have, that there is something very, very wrong with this particular project. It has got worse since we examined it about seven or eight years ago now. It has got worse because we have had the problem—I am not sure exactly how long I have got here—

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Ms Patten): Thirty seconds.

Mr FINN: In that case I will be very, very quick. We have had a problem with the toxic soil, and the people out in my area are going to have this dumped on them—at Ravenhall, at Sunbury, at Bulla. They are going to have this carcinogenic, toxic soil dumped upon them. So the people of the west are copping it left, right and centre and from various angles, and it is disgraceful, it is despicable and it is something that we did not ask for. We do not want it, and as far as I am concerned the government can get stuffed.

COVID-19

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I wish to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Health, so I shall speak slowly. There has been a great deal of speculation of recent times about what could be described as a hard lockdown, a radical hard lockdown, in parts of Melbourne. What I am concerned about is that there may well be this radical hard lockdown in the City of Hume. Now, there are parts of the City of Hume which have a lot of the Wuhan virus—at Roxburgh Park and Craigieburn they seem to have it prevalent—but there are also parts of Hume, such as Sunbury, such as Bulla, such as Gladstone Park and Tullamarine, that do not have it at all. It would be an act of folly if we were to lock everybody down in the City of Hume because a couple of places had more of the virus than others, keeping in mind of course that the people of Sunbury do not even want to be in Hume. The only reason they are in Hume is that this government broke its promise to them in the last term of government. They wanted to get out of Hume, and given half a chance they will still do that. But what I am asking the minister to do is to provide a guarantee to the people

of Sunbury, Bulla, Gladstone Park and Tullamarine that they will not be included in any hard lockdown of the City of Hume that would prevent people from attending medical clinics and would prevent people from attending supermarkets and so forth. It is lunacy in my view, but unfortunately this government is renowned for that, and I am a bit concerned that when these rumours circulate, generally speaking, the next day they become fact. So I ask the minister to give that guarantee.

Government planning consultation

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My constituency question is to the Minister for Planning. Planning matters are of particular concern to my constituents in many parts of Melbourne's west. Hume, Melton and Wyndham councils are overseeing boom growth in their respective municipalities and as such have a keen interest in changes to planning policies the minister may have under consideration. For example, the mayor of Melton, Cr Kathy Majdlik, has written to me today expressing very strong opposition to any changes by the government which may remove or hinder the rights of the council and the community to proper consultation on any particular planning application or to object to or appeal planning decisions. I understand that the minister has received similar correspondence. I share Melton council's concerns about any changes proposed, as it will heavily impact development in fast-growing suburbs in Melbourne's west. Minister, will you give a guarantee you will respect council and community rights as requested by Melton council?

to ensure that for any child, any young person, receiving medical assistance, receiving any form of medication of a nature we are talking about, it only happens with parental authority.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
05 October 2021**

West Gate Tunnel roadworks

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure. Thousands of motorists in Melbourne's west have bravely tolerated the building of the West Gate Tunnel. Traffic on the Princes and West Gate freeways and the Western Ring Road is usually bad enough, but locals have had to suffer added delays as the Andrews government's great white elephant slowly plods along. Road closures around this project have made local people's lives a misery, and they have had more than enough. There is only so much my constituents can be expected to put up with. To this point their patience levels have been nothing but totally admirable, but this cannot go on. Minister, we have the West Gate Tunnel Project finishing date constantly blowing out. When can the people of Melbourne's west expect to travel into Melbourne unencumbered?

**COUNCIL | Members statements
05 October 2021**

COVID-19

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I am a proud Victorian. I love this state, and I am heartbroken to see what has happened to it over the past 20 months. 111 000 small businesses have already hit the wall, and at least 100 more are closing every week. The mental health of millions of Victorians, particularly the young, has been severely impacted.

I should at this point thank the many serving and former police officers who went out of their way to let me know they understood perfectly what my recent comment was referring to, and indeed they supported me. Like me, their concern is purely for the effectiveness of Victoria Police and

its reputation in the community. They joined me in expressing outrage at the politicisation of VicPol. This is a direction that must be turned around.

Since our last sitting day, the Melbourne Football Club ended a 57-year premiership drought. I offer my congratulations but also my commiserations to Demons supporters who missed seeing their club win the flag due to the Andrews government's lockdown 6. The government's vaccine mandate is causing great distress across the state, and I stand with those whose human rights should be respected. This matter should be a choice. Nobody should be forced to do it. I pray Victoria may one day recover from Daniel Andrews and his government. In the meantime, Victoria is not a happy place to be.

**COUNCIL | Second reading
05 October 2021**

Suburban Rail Loop Bill 2021

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It is indeed a delight to be here this evening, I cannot begin to tell you, to speak on the Suburban Rail Loop Bill 2021. I have to say, this is not a bill so much as a doorstop, and what a great production this is. If ever there was a tribute to the imagination of the bureaucracy, this is it. This is a ripper. I think it was Mr Hayes a little earlier who mentioned the program Utopia, and I can see Rob Sitch richly appearing in this bill here because there are a lot of people who sat around at a lot of meetings, at a lot of tables with perhaps a lot of bottles of prosecco when they put this legislation and indeed this program together, because this really takes the cake.

It reminds me a little bit, I have to say—in its defence—of when Benny Gale first came to Richmond as CEO. Now, Richmond at that point in time was, I think it would be safe to say, stuffed, and had been for a vast number of years. It was something that none of us really enjoyed, but we did not quite know how to change it. Benny came along and he said, 'We're going to have three premierships in the next 10 years and we're going to have 100 000 members.' Most of us thought that Brendon 'Benny' Gale at that point in

time had completely taken leave of his senses, but we did get to 100 000 members at Richmond and we have kept 100 000 members at Richmond even during this year, which was not ideal, and last year as well when the game was not ideal even though we won the premiership.

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Mr FINN: That was the game against Geelong, Mr Ondarchie. We remember it and we might actually, on these television screens that have not been used today, see if we can get the last quarter replayed a little bit later on, because it is one of my favourite matches of all time. That was pretty spectacular up at the Gabba. The last team to win a premiership in Melbourne and the first one to win one interstate—I reckon that is a pretty good record. It is not quite as good as the Premier's record of Melbourne being the longest, most locked down city in the world, or indeed—

Ms Taylor: On a point of order, Acting President, not that this is not entertaining, but we are here to discuss the Suburban Rail Loop. Just putting it out there.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Ms Patten): Mr Finn, if you can include some trains in your contribution.

Mr FINN: I will. Look, just across the road from Punt Road you have got the Richmond station, and there they come and they go all day, and when the footy is on there are thousands of them, a hell of a lot of them, from all over the place. Anyway, as I was saying, I am just using an example of somebody who had imagination, who came in and did the impossible. He got us three premierships in four years. He got 100 000 members every year for—I think it was—about the last four or five years, which is quite spectacular, and we will be back next year. I am quite looking forward to that.

So it is not impossible. These things can be done. Even this fairytale here can become a reality. But the bottom line behind this fanciful story is that this is the centrepiece of Daniel Andrews's 2022 election campaign. What this project is about is winning votes next year. That is what it is about. In 12 months they are going to build up a bureaucracy. They are going to print a lot of very glossy brochures. They are going to put some television ads together. They are going to put some radio ads together. They are going to spend a squillion of taxpayer dollars, and

in the lead-up to the election next year all we are going to hear about is this project that is so good, that is so wonderful, and of course the week after the election we will not hear of it again. That will be the end of it.

It is an extraordinary thing that this government is putting forward. They insult the intelligence of the electorate so often, and I just wonder when the electorate is actually going to wake up to what is going on here, because the most conservative estimate of the cost of this project is \$150 billion—

Ms Crozier: How much?

Mr FINN: \$150 billion—one hundred and fifty thousand million dollars. Just think about that—one hundred and fifty thousand million dollars, and that will be blown out to the scheissenhausen by the time they are finished—and I am not sure how you spell that. I am sorry, Hansard. But by the time they are finished, it will probably be \$300 billion, maybe \$450 billion. Who would know? We are looking at somewhere around 2055 or something, some ridiculous time frame, by which time none of us will be here, none of us will care.

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Mr FINN: Speaking of the Fawkner cemetery, most of us will be in it. None of us will actually care about what is going on. Daniel Andrews will be gone and people will say, 'Where the hell did we get this debt from? Where did we get this debt from?'

We have heard a great deal tonight again promoting this imaginary project. We have even heard how it is going to be good for gender equality. I thought to myself, 'Fair enough' but, well, everybody else is using their imagination, why not? Let's go for it as well. This project is one that is fanciful in the extreme. The government is going to use this next year as a centrepiece of their election campaign. The statutory authority that is being set up here tonight in this legislation is a part of their campaign. It is a part of the Andrews government's campaign for next year. The people who are going to be employed by this authority are going to be integral to the election campaign for the Andrews government next year, all of course paid for by the Victorian taxpayer. And we know, we have seen on numerous occasions the Andrews government not have a problem in the world about dipping their hands into the pockets of Victorian

taxpayers, taking out vast sums of money and using it for party-political purposes. We have seen that time and time again, and one day justice will prevail and somebody will actually put their hand up—well, nobody is going to put their hand up; let's face facts, because, as Mr Ondarchie said, they do not recall anything. None of them have recalled anything they have ever done, which is quite remarkable, because they have done it. We all know they have done it, but they do not actually recall doing it themselves.

So this \$150 billion, which is going to blow out extraordinarily in the time that we have ahead, will be a burden around the necks of taxpayers for generations to come. Even if the government gets to building half this thing, it will still be a huge burden around the necks of taxpayers. It will be a huge burden around the necks of my kids and of my grandkids and quite possibly of my great-grandkids, because in this debate so far a lot of imagination has been used, a lot of flowery language has been used, but not once did anybody say, 'This is where the money is coming from.' Well, I tell you what, there is only one place the money can come from, and that is out of the pocket of the taxpayer. That is where the money is coming from. So when you say to the Victorian people, 'We are going to give you this, we are going to give you that, we are going to give you something else', what in fact you are saying is, 'We are going to take your money off you and we are going to build this thing—maybe, maybe not; no, we will just waste it.' That is what we are talking about. We are talking about robbing the Victorian taxpayer on another ridiculous scheme that is never going to happen by a government that specialises in these schemes.

It is absolutely extraordinary to think that we are standing in this Parliament or sitting in this Parliament, depending on where you are at the time, debating whether we put forward another project for \$150 billion when the state is already broke. This government, the Andrews government—Daniel Andrews, Uncle Fester, the whole lot of them—has sent the state broke. It is going to take us a very, very long time to pay off the debt that we already have, and they want to add to it by at least \$150 000 million. This is the Labor Party that we have in this state—no care, no responsibility. They just

want a glossy brochure to flash around next year during an election campaign. Daniel Andrews at some stage in the not-too-distant future is going to take his superannuation pension and he is going to run. We will never see him again, and for that we will be grateful. But the fact is that he will be living off a \$300 000 or \$350 000 a year pension, doing very, very nicely for himself, despite the fact that he has left all these projects half done.

The West Gate Tunnel, for instance: do you reckon that is ever going to be finished in my lifetime or indeed in anybody else's? Indeed, I asked the Minister for Transport Infrastructure today exactly how much longer the motorists in Melbourne's west will have to put up with the West Gate Tunnel construction. We were told that this thing was going to happen—going to be open, going to be finished—next year. Then we were told, 'Nah, not next year. We mean 2023.' Then it went to 2024. Then it went to 2025. I think we are out to about 2026 at the moment, but we have not finished yet, because we have still got a few years. It could blow out. This is something that this government has a knack for. They have really got a tremendous capacity for two things: lying and stuffing things up. They really have got a tremendous ability to do those things. They have not got much ability for anything else, but they certainly do for that.

The one other thing that I want to point out is the impact this will have on the western suburbs. This will be a very, very short summation because it will have very, very little impact on the western suburbs. It will have practically no impact on the western suburbs, because this project will never get anywhere near the western suburbs. Despite the fact that Melbourne's west is the fastest growing region in Melbourne and certainly the fastest growing region in Australia as well, we are seeing a project here, which we are debating tonight, that is never going to see the west of Melbourne. It is never going to benefit anybody who lives in the west of Melbourne. And why is that the case? I will tell you why: because the Andrews government does not give a stuff about the west of Melbourne, and it has shown that time and time and time again. Here we are tonight, and they are doing it again.

The Andrews government could not care less about the west of Melbourne, because they know that they can treat the west like dirt—I nearly said something else. They know they can treat the west like dirt and the people of the west will roll up and vote for them—or so they think. Because when I go around and speak to people—and I have not been able to do that as often as I would like, given the lockdown that we have seen, lockdown 6—I see a light bulb above their heads and the realisation that an automatic vote for the Labor Party is not something that can be taken for granted in Melbourne’s west anymore.

I am certainly looking forward to the next election to see that come to fruition, because I am absolutely convinced we on this side of the house—the Liberal Party—will win seats in Melbourne’s west in the lower house at the next election. It is inevitable. People have had enough. When they see projects like this, when they see billions and billions and billions and billions of dollars being thrown around with no benefit to the west at all, they say, ‘Hey, what’s going on here, folks? We’re taxpayers too.’ And that is the truth. People in the west have got houses, they have got mortgages and they pay taxes. Why can’t they get their fair share? Well, they cannot get their fair share because Daniel Andrews says they cannot get their fair share. That is why they cannot get their fair share.

This bill is a fantasy. It is a dream. It will never happen.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
06 October 2021**

Bulla bypass

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. The sirens wailing through Bulla this morning told the story. A horse-carrying vehicle and a garbage truck had smashed head-on as they both attempted to cross the Bulla Bridge. This time we were fortunate that no-one was killed—this time—but deaths on this bridge are inevitable. As I have explained to the house before, this bridge was built when horses were not carried in trucks but indeed pulling carriages. It was built over 160 years ago and is totally inadequate for the traffic volume it

is expected to carry every day. With the prospect of a further 800 to 900 trucks and many B-doubles a day, the bridge and Bulla Road up and down Bulla Hill will not be able to cope. Minister, we have been waiting for the building of the Bulla bypass for as long as I can remember. It has been needed for years. Minister, will you now build the Bulla bypass?

**COUNCIL | Production of documents
06 October 2021**

COVID-19 Vaccination

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I thank Ms Taylor for her contribution, and a very spirited contribution it was, it has to be said. I rise to support the motion put forward by Mr Limbrick and support it indeed very, very strongly. Ms Taylor made mention of us finding information unpalatable. Well, it is very hard to be finding anything unpalatable when you do not get any information to start with. That is actually what this is all about. That is what we want—we want information.

One of the issues surrounding the government’s refusal to hand over advice from the chief health officer is: why all the secrecy? I mean, if we were at war and you did not want the enemy to find out, yes, you would have secrecy. That is fine. You could cope with that. And we have heard in previous months that the virus is quick, it is clever. It can even climb through windows. Apparently it can now read as well. Why otherwise would you not want us, the people of Victoria, to know why the decisions have been made? This is why people have just given up on this government, have walked away, have said, ‘We’re not going to take this anymore,’ and are just doing their own thing—because the government will not take people with them. That is the problem. We have a Premier who gets up there every day bullying and abusing people and blaming and castigating and chastising them for anything and everything. All he has to do is get up, explain what he is doing and explain why he is doing it and I think he would get a far better reaction from the people of Victoria than he is getting now. I am absolutely convinced of that.

It is a bit like the vaccinations. I mean, we have heard a number

of people in a number of areas express deep concerns about the vaccinations. Now, I have to say to this house, as I have before, that I am not an anti-vaxxer—I have my full vaccination quota for this year in fact—but there are a lot of people out there that are deeply concerned about the vaccination. Now, all the Premier needs to do is to explain to people that this thing is safe, that this thing will not hurt them. Instead he gets up there and he is belligerent and he is obnoxious, everything that we have come to expect of Daniel Andrews, and he refuses to explain to people what their concerns are. He will not address their concerns. There is all this secrecy. That is one thing about this government, apart from the stuff-ups and the lies—there is secrecy about everything.

What this motion is seeking to do today is to break down a bit of that secrecy, and for that Mr Limbrick has my support and indeed my admiration. I think this is a particularly good motion because it does refer to the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Directions (No 1), and (No 2), (No 3), (No 4) and (No 5) as well—almost as many directions as indeed there have been lockdowns—and it refers to the human rights charter assessments, health advice and other data or correspondence that the public health team considered in drafting these directions. Now, I think when you lock up nearly 7 million people you had better come up with a pretty good reason for doing it, not just ‘Because I say so.’ That is what the Premier says—‘Because I say so. Because you must follow my orders.’ That is what he says. That is not the way to bring people with you. You need to explain what you are doing. This motion is actually attempting to help the Premier. It is actually attempting to get the message across to people, to find out exactly why these things are happening.

As I say, I do not understand all the secrecy. I do not understand why the Premier is so reluctant to explain to the people of Victoria exactly why he is doing what he is doing. Now, for example, with the curfew we know there was no reason, we know there is no reason. The curfew is a nonsense. There is no medical reason for the curfew. There is no law and order reason for the curfew, although I understand crime is down as a result of it. I suppose, if you do not have people outside their

homes, they probably cannot burgle somebody else's. It is extraordinary that we have this curfew. We did not even have a curfew during World War II, but here we have a curfew imposed by a Premier for no reason at all, or for only one reason: because he can. That is why he is doing it: because he can.

This Premier, more than anything else, is a bully. He wants people to do what he wants them to do irrespective of the reason. I would welcome any information at all coming from the Premier on this, particularly with regard to the vaccination mandate because it is causing a great deal of grief to a lot of people right around the state. I can understand why those employed in aged care and perhaps the health professions have to be vaccinated, but I do not understand why gravediggers or bus drivers or whoever have to be vaccinated. It makes no sense at all. I think we need to find out why. That is what this motion is about. It is about finding out what the medical advice is so that people know exactly what is going on.

Before I conclude my remarks I just want to make mention of a term that I find particularly repugnant, and that term is 'authorised workers'. If that is not straight out of Stalinist Russia, I do not know what is. 'Authorised workers'—why do we need to be authorised to work? Everybody has the right to work. For God's sake, there are not enough people working who should be. Why do we have this? Mr Tarlamis is over there saying, 'There's nothing wrong with that.' Well, from the Socialist Left perspective I can understand authorised workers would be fine—that would not be a problem at all. But I find that attitude that we have to be authorised by the government in order to earn a living—to look after our families, to pay our bills—appalling. I find that despicable. Here we have a government that is just using that to crush people, to destroy people, and it has been doing it now for 20 months, and they will not tell us why. 'Purely', says the Premier, 'because I told you so, because you are doing the wrong thing.' 'You must have a civic responsibility', he says. He says all these things every day, but he will not tell us why, and I want to know why he will not tell us why. There has got to be a reason. Mr Tarlamis might know; I do not know. Somewhere

somebody has got to know. The Premier has an opportunity from this point on to back himself in, to actually explain to people why he is doing what he is doing and to take people with him.

Already we have seen riots in the streets, scenes that I never thought in a million years I would see in Melbourne, Australia. We have seen international condemnation of what is happening here in Victoria. We have had press conferences in Poland, we have had protests in the United States, we have had protests in the United Kingdom—not against China or North Korea, but against Victoria, against Daniel Andrews. And the reason that people are protesting, the reason that people are getting so annoyed with the Premier, is that he is so arrogant, he is so belligerent, he will not take people with him, he will not explain his actions. He just refuses, and he does not see why he should have to explain to the people of Victoria why he is doing what he is doing. Why the secrecy? That is what I want to know: why the secrecy? I am hoping that this motion will go some way towards removing that secrecy.

I commend Mr Limbrick again on moving this motion, and I sincerely hope that this house will support it in the hope that we can go on in this period in our history with a view to sharing information that should be shared among the people of Victoria.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
06 October 2021**

Waste and Recycling Management

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter for the attention of the Premier, and it is an issue that has been brought to my attention by a constituent who of course has been in lockdown now for some time. She took—with vigour, I might say—to cleaning up her house and also to buying a number of things online, which led to a good number of cardboard boxes being found and being added to by the online buying. So what she did was one day she got busy and she packed it all into the car, a wagon, and she headed off to the tip, only to be told when she got to the tip

that she had to turn around and go home again because the tip was not taking rubbish from residents of that particular municipality because of the lockdown.

Now, this seems to me to be quite ludicrous. The tip, of course, is in an open area. It is rare that huge numbers of people gather at the tip, and it could be easily organised anyway, I would have thought. So the woman involved, my constituent, turned around and went home, and she tells me that the great pile of cardboard that she had accumulated and that she had found is now sitting at her back door and is clearly a fire hazard and indeed possibly a hazard for mice and rats. That is something we just do not want to see.

What I am asking the Premier to do is to lift the ban on tips being used, because this poor woman is concerned for the health of her family. Particularly with the rats around the place, she is very, very nervous about that. I just cannot see any good reason to ban the use of tips during this lockdown. It just does not make any sense to me at all. If the Premier has some good health reason for doing it, I welcome that information, but for the life of me I cannot understand why you would not be able to go to the tip. If anything else, it is a health issue. If the Premier is concerned about our health, this is something he should be considering as well.

A member interjected.

Mr FINN: Yes, absolutely. So, Premier, I ask you to remove this ban on people using their municipal tips.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
07 October 2021**

Sunshine Technical College

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Education, and I draw the minister's attention to efforts by the National Trust, Brimbank City Council and community groups to protect the historic Sunshine Technical College buildings, which may soon be demolished. The Sunshine Girls Technical School was built in 1938 and the Sunshine Technical School boys wing in 1941. So strong is local opposition to the destruction of these buildings that Brimbank City Council has

nominated them for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register. These buildings are significant in the history of Sunshine and surrounds. The CEO of the National Trust, Simon Ambrose, is quoted as saying the buildings are:

... of national historical and social significance as part of a suburb created by Australia's leading industrialist, HV McKay
...

Mr McKay was of course owner of the Sunshine Harvester Works and donated the land on which Sunshine College's senior college sat until recently. Minister, will you give my community the assurance that these buildings will be protected?

COUNCIL | Members statements 12 October 2021

Dominic Perrottet

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise to offer my very warmest congratulations to the new Premier of New South Wales, Dominic Perrottet. I have known, liked and admired Dom for some time and was delighted by his elevation to lead his state. He will do an outstanding job and has already started by beginning the reopening of Sydney. Millions of Melburnians have looked at their television sets in stunned amazement as they have seen Sydney residents drinking in a pub, dining in a restaurant, having their hair cut, working out at the gym or even going shopping—some have even visited friends and family—all things banned in Melbourne and with very little hope of happening anytime soon.

Victorians would love a Premier like Dom Perrottet—someone who respects them, somebody who will give them freedom, somebody who will not use lockdown as a blunt instrument with which to bludgeon the community into submission. Melburnians are green with envy at our Sydney cousins' experience. They are experiencing exactly what we used to take for granted. As businesses continue to crash, as our kids continue to suffer, as families crack under the pressure, Victorians need a Premier with vision, with activity, with energy—

Ms Crozier: And honesty.

Mr FINN: and honesty, indeed. Unfortunately that Premier is in New South Wales.

COUNCIL | Adjournment 12 October 2021

Sunbury Day Hospital

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter this evening for the attention of the Minister for Health. Every day—or just about every day, anyway—I travel to Sunbury via Bulla Road and Sunbury Road. Over recent times I have noticed the building of the toxic soil dump that has been going on, and it looks like it is coming to completion. I am amazed at the size of the thing, to start with. I would be surprised if you could not actually see it from the moon. It is quite a substantial development. On the other side of the road, of course, there are other developments. There are residential developments. There is one that is directly opposite the toxic soil dump, there is one that is next door and another one that is next door, and they are all building homes. They are all building homes that families will move into, and of course they will all be breathing in the toxic dust because, as we know, Sunbury and Bulla are very, very windy places—I can vouch for that—and the wind will pick up this stuff and carry it.

Mrs McArthur interjected.

Mr FINN: That is right. As I travelled into Sunbury I then passed the Sunbury Day Hospital, a proposal that I first put up back in 1996, a long time ago.

A member: Last century!

Mr FINN: It was last century. It was put up and finally built, but in no way was it built to reach its full potential, and this is what I am asking the Minister for Health to actually finalise tonight. My view is that this day hospital needs an oncology ward. If the government is going to create a situation where the people of Bulla and the people of Sunbury are going to be exposed to carcinogens and they are going to be exposed to the possibility of contracting cancer, the very least this government can do is to provide an oncology unit at the Sunbury Day Hospital to treat the local people when they contract cancer.

COUNCIL | Constituency questions 13 October 2021

Wyndham infrastructure

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Treasurer. I draw the Treasurer's attention to a new report from Infrastructure Victoria that indicates very clearly that without immediate government investment the City of Wyndham's booming population will continue to suffer. Melbourne's west has been neglected for decades, as we know, and this neglect is only too evident in Wyndham. Wyndham has one library per 60 000 residents, compared to the statewide average of one per 41 000. The situation with aquatic and recreation centres is worse still. The report shows Wyndham has one such centre for every 149 000 residents, compared to the state average of one per 65 000 people. The Treasurer may have driven past the AquaPulse centre in Hoppers Crossing. That attracts over a million a year. Treasurer, will you familiarise yourself with the pressing needs of Wyndham and provide the cash injection called for?

COUNCIL | Motions 13 October 2021

Employment

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise to support the motion, motion 646, moved so very well indeed by my friend and colleague Mr Ondarchie. I have to say right at the beginning that if anybody in the general community is listening to this this afternoon, I feel very sorry for them, because listening to government members this afternoon, they would be absolutely convinced that we have a government that is so totally out of touch with reality that there is no chance that they will ever stray back to it. They would think that members of this government actually believe what they say when they say Victoria is booming. They would think as they look around at their local shopping centres and they see empty shop after empty shop after empty shop, 'For lease' sign after 'For lease' sign—

Mr Ondarchie: Empty car parks.

Mr FINN: Empty car parks, indeed, Mr Ondarchie. They would look at that, and they would then listen to members of this government telling them how good things are in Victoria. They would be wondering what the hell is going on here, and they would be justified in wondering what the hell is going on here. In fact I am wondering what the hell is going on here. It is extraordinary.

I have said this in the house before, and I have suggested to government members that they do it. Obviously they have not, but they really should: go for a walk down the steps here at the front of the building. Go for a walk down Bourke Street. Ms Shing is obviously going for a walk down Bourke Street. That is good. She should go for a walk down Bourke Street, and she should—indeed all government members should—count the number of empty shops, the number of closed restaurants, the number of ‘For lease’ signs that there are in Bourke Street, and that is just one street—

Ms Shing: On a point of order, Deputy President, I would like Mr Finn to withdraw the assertion that I am leaving the chamber to go for a walk down Bourke Street, please—completely untrue. I am not going to leave a parliamentary sitting to go for a walk down Bourke Street, Mr Finn. That is a reflection—

Mr FINN: I think you should. It would help your general knowledge.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr Finn, we do try to avoid reflecting on other members, and if the member has taken offence, I do ask you to withdraw.

Mr FINN: I am very happy to withdraw, Deputy President. But I think it would just add to the perception of the electorate that this government is totally out of touch if they think going for a walk down Bourke Street is an insult. I mean, that is just extraordinary.

Ms Shing: On a point of order, Deputy President, Mr Finn is flouting your ruling. I have just been issued with a conditional withdrawal. I would really just like for him to withdraw what he said and to move on.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr Finn, I did ask you to withdraw, and if you could—

Mr FINN: Well, I did withdraw. I said, ‘I withdraw’. But I just find it extraordinary that somebody would find going for a walk down

Bourke Street as insulting. I find it extraordinary.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr Finn, no qualification to it. Can you just move on with your—

Mr FINN: No, there isn’t any qualification.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Well, can you just move on with your contribution without referring to Ms Shing, please.

Mr FINN: If I could go the rest of my life without referring to Ms Shing, I would, believe me. I would be very pleased.

Ms Shing: On a point of order—

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is no need for a point of order. Mr Finn, you are flouting my ruling. I have asked you not to refer to Ms Shing. Can you please just move on with your contribution—on the motion, not about Ms Shing, please.

Mr FINN: Dear me. Well, Mr Melhem might be going for a walk down Bourke Street, because members of the government should go for a walk down Bourke Street and they should count the empty shops, they should count the closed restaurants, they should count the ‘For lease’ signs that are down Bourke Street and Swanston Street and Elizabeth Street and all the other streets in the city. The CBD is dead. It is dead, and this government killed it. Daniel Andrews killed Melbourne, and they get over here and they have the audacity to get up and tell us how great things are. What world are they living in? They are certainly not living in Melbourne.

This is just an extraordinary exhibition by government members today of denying reality. The reality of the matter is Victoria, as things stand today, is stuffed. It is stuffed, and Daniel Andrews stuffed it. Whether it be country areas, whether it be suburban areas or whether it be the CBD, as I said, it is all the same story. Victoria—if it is not dead it is on life support and they are about to turn it off. That is the tragic situation that we are in today.

That is why Mr Ondarchie brings this motion to the house today. It is not about government MPs grandstanding, as some of them are particularly good at. It is about expressing concern about Victoria’s future. It is about getting a plan for Victoria’s future. We all know that Daniel Andrews is just making it up as he goes along. I mean, it is quite extraordinary when you consider

that some people might actually vote for this bloke next time, if indeed he is still around. It is quite extraordinary given his track record. I mean, he has monumentally screwed this up. Even the Age—hardly a great fan of the Liberal Party—has said this is an example of how not to do things; it is a template indeed of how not to do things. When the Age says that about a Labor government, you had better believe that something is desperately wrong, and it is. And you do not have to go very far in Victoria to find out. Again, go for a walk down Bourke Street and ask people, if indeed you can find anybody, if indeed—

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Mr FINN: Well, apparently you cannot go for a walk. Some people will take a point of order and say going for a walk down Bourke Street is apparently obscene or something. I do not know. It is all very odd. This government is getting weirder by the day, it has to be said, and nothing is quite as weird as what we are seeing here today. It is the most bizarre thing I think I have ever seen in 22 years in Parliament.

But the fact of the matter is that Victoria needs new direction. Victoria needs new energy. Victoria needs a new government. The old one is broken, and it cannot be fixed. Just have a look at the IBAC inquiry and you will find out just how broken it is. While Victorians are suffering under their sixth lockdown—you know, the seven-day lockdown that has gone for nearly four months—while they are losing their jobs, while they are losing their businesses, while they are losing their homes, while they are losing their families and tragically while some are even losing their lives, this government is all about itself. It is all about branch stacking. It is all about fixing preselections. It is all about the internal machinations of the ALP, and unfortunately that is what the Premier excels at. He cannot do much else, but he is pretty good at manipulation of internal ALP instruments. He is really good at that, but he is not much good at anything else, sadly. I urge members of the house to support Mr Ondarchie’s motion—

Mr Ondarchie: Mr Davis’s.

Mr FINN: Mr Davis’s motion, so ably moved by Mr Ondarchie. I urge the house to support this motion. I think it is a very, very important one, and I think it is one that the

people of Victoria are actually crying out for. They are looking for leadership. They are looking for direction. At the moment they look at Daniel Andrews, they look at the Labor Party, and there is none—there is none, there is zero, there is zilch. As I say, he is making it up as he goes along. From day to day, almost minute to minute, he is making the whole thing up, and there is no vision, there is no hope, across Victoria. There is no hope, and that in itself is a tragedy. You just have to go to a playground and talk to a few kids, and they will tell you their future is gone, as far as they are concerned. It is tragic—it is absolutely tragic. What has happened in this state is criminal—quite literally, I think—but what we need to do is get our act together or Victoria will never recover. Unfortunately under this government, under this Premier, it will not.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
13 October 2021**

Mental Health funding

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter this evening for the Minister for Mental Health. Listening to speakers on Saturday at the annual March for the Babies I was reminded of the severe impact of abortion on the mental health of many women. We heard from Professor Priscilla Coleman from the United States, as well as grief counsellor Anne Lastman and a young lady who had been through the process and had been through a severe case of depression following her abortion. It reminded me in fact of what I said to this house some years ago when the bill was passed in 2008. I reminded the house that the world's biggest abortion provider—baby killer, call them what you will—warned that suicide is a side effect of abortion. This is a major issue in the minds of many women who have been through this process. I am not sure exactly of the numbers, because these numbers and figures in this particular area are pretty murky, but certainly I am aware of a number of women to my own knowledge that have either attempted suicide or have actually succeeded.

So I really think that we need to put a lot more effort into helping women who are in this particular situation. We owe it to them to provide the support that they need, given that we all too often tell them that they have no choice, that they have to go down this particular path, and that in itself is a major mental health issue. So what I am asking the Minister for Mental Health to do is to fund a study into this particular illness, post-abortion grief, which as I said affects so many women in such a savage and unrelenting manner. I mean, some women have had it for 40, 50, 60 years. It is just beyond belief. We really do need to do something about this, and I am asking the minister to do studies into this and to provide the degree of support that is needed by women in this situation. I ask him to do that as a matter of urgency, because there are a lot of women who regard it as a matter of urgency, and I could not agree with them more.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
14 October 2021**

Crisis accommodation in Melbourne's West

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Housing. Minister, there is a desperate need for more crisis accommodation in Melbourne's west. Despite increased funding during the pandemic there are still significant problems related to homeless people being temporarily housed in poor-quality and unsafe private properties. I recall visiting some of these types of properties some years ago, and I have to tell the house, I was horrified. No human being should be forced to live in those conditions. It is both tragic and heartbreaking when children are involved. Everyone deserves the right to a home where they can feel safe. Sadly, that is not the reality for far too many of my constituents. Suburbs such as Sunshine and St Albans urgently need more social housing and they need it now. Minister, will you provide this housing so many more of my constituents can be and feel at home?

**COUNCIL | Motions
14 October 2021**

COVID-19 Vaccination

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise to speak on this government motion today to mandate the vaccine for members of Parliament under threat of suspension from this chamber. I should just start by, I suppose, letting everybody know that I am fully vaccinated. I have mentioned that a couple of times before, but I will mention it again. It seems to be the topic of the moment. But despite the fact that I am fully vaccinated, can I make an appeal for tolerance? We have a government which is involved in conflict to a huge degree; it is part of its business. 'Divide and conquer' is the old way of saying it, and nobody does that quite like Daniel Andrews and his government. But could I put out an appeal for tolerance? We have had people—and I have seen people on Facebook and in newspapers and all over the place—ripping into each other, vaccinated versus unvaccinated, anti-vaxxers versus pro-vaxxers. Hey, this should be a decision that everybody is entitled to. That should be respected by everybody else. That is what it is about.

I know that Daniel Andrews does not respect you if you do not agree with him, if you do not do what he tells you to do. But let us not stoop to the standard of Daniel Andrews, shall we? Let us lift ourselves up to a much higher plateau. Let us respect each other as human beings, respect each other as individuals and respect each other's choices. That is what we should do. We are Australians. That is what Australians are known for throughout the world, until recently. We need to get back to that.

I have to say to you that apart from those in aged and health care—where I believe a vaccine is, well, logical; it protects patients, it protects elderly people and of course it protects the workers as well—I do not believe that there should be any mandate of the vaccination at all. I believe that that is a breach of human rights. I believe that that is something that we as a Parliament should not be condoning. If we are fair dinkum about looking after people, we should not be telling

them what they can and cannot do with regard to their own personal health. That to me does not make a lot of sense. We should encourage people, if we want to, but let us not force them. Let us not force them to do anything,

When people have contacted me expressing their views one way or the other on the vaccine, I have given them one piece of advice: 'Go and talk to your doctor. I don't know. I'm a politician. I'm not a doctor. Go and talk to your doctor. Do what I did. Go and talk to your doctor. See what he or she says, and follow that advice, if you are so inclined.' I think that is probably, if I do say so myself, the best piece of advice that anyone can offer, to go to your doctor.

Instead, we have from this Premier a heavy-handed approach, the bullying approach—and doesn't he love being a bully? This bloke that we have as Premier of this state is one of the greatest bullies that we have ever seen in public office in this nation—if not the biggest. Quite frankly, it disgusts me. I understand why people are so angry at him. I understand why people, who are about to lose their jobs tomorrow, are so livid. I understand some of the more extreme language, I suppose. I do not support it, but I can certainly understand the sentiment behind it.

People should not be discriminated against because of the medical decisions they make. It is a pretty fair and reasonable thing. But here we have a motion before this Parliament today to do just that, to discriminate against members of Parliament on the basis of a decision that they have made about their personal health. It is just beyond imagination. You know, if somebody had told me this a couple of years ago, that this would be happening in the Victorian Parliament now, I would have had them possibly committed—because this is just way beyond anything that one could have possibly imagined.

I have been told for many, many years that the doctor-patient relationship is sacrosanct, absolutely sacrosanct. If you go to your doctor, what you discuss between yourself and your doctor is sacrosanct. We now have a situation where Daniel Andrews is turning it into a threesome. He wants to impose himself into every conversation between a doctor and their patient. That is not on. That breaches every level of reason, in my view.

This motion fails on a number of counts, and one of the biggest ones is the total lack of justification. As Mr Davis said, and as I think Ms Crozier said as well, where is the chief health officer advice on this? Is this another curfew? Because we know that there is no justification for the curfew. We know that. We found that out last year. There is no medical justification for it, there is no law and order justification for it. This was an idea presumably from the Premier to lock people up overnight. Is this another idea of the Premier's—to kick his political opponents out of Parliament if they do not do the right thing? Is this what the Premier is proposing?

Mr Rich-Phillips: We've seen it before.

Mr FINN: Yes, we have seen it before; yes, indeed we have. This is something that we cannot possibly support, unless of course the government can come up with the public health advice to support it—but it cannot; it will not. Why not? What is the government hiding, and why has it been hiding it for so long? It is totally mystifying, and you can understand the level of disgust that people in the community have toward this government.

Banning elected MPs on the basis of their health status is in fact an attack on the people of Victoria. It is not an attack on MPs; it is an attack on the people that we all represent. It is saying to the people of Victoria, 'You don't matter. We can turf your representative out'—because, let us face it, we are here, whatever our views might be, whatever our region might be, representing the people of Victoria. What this government is saying in this motion is, 'Your views, certain views, don't matter.' Now, we know that the Premier honestly believes that. He honestly believes that his view on everything trumps everybody else's. We know that. Again, he is a bully of the first order, and that is something I have to say I just cannot tolerate. I have strongly been of the view for a very long time that bullies should never be rewarded. There is only one way to treat a bully, and that is to stand up to them. That is what I am doing here today to the Premier of Victoria. I will not be bullied by Daniel Andrews, and nor should any of us be bullied by Daniel Andrews. It is not on. It cannot be tolerated.

Now, I can rationalise a lot of things, and we do in this place to

make our lives perhaps a little bit easier from time to time.

Mrs McArthur: Sometimes.

Mr FINN: Yes, sometimes; we can do that. But you cannot rationalise this. I mean, there are some very, very important principles involved here. I have to say to the house—and this has probably been a major failure of mine throughout my career—that when it comes to principle or politics I will go with principle. It has probably cost me—not probably but most certainly has cost me—enormously over the years, but that is the way it is as far as I am concerned. There is no doubt that the principles involved here cannot be ignored; they must not be ignored. The use of coercion to force a medical procedure on someone against that person's will is wrong. It is totally wrong, totally unacceptable. To deny Victorians representation in the Parliament is wrong. I mean, who could possibly argue that that is okay? It is totally wrong.

Discrimination—now, we talk a lot about discrimination, don't we. Everything is about discrimination here—discrimination against this, that and the other thing. But here we have a classic case of discrimination on medical status. Now, where else but the Parliament of Victoria would you see that happening, would that be allowed, would that be encouraged—where else? Nowhere else. Here it is. We are supposed to be the leaders of the community, and here we are attempting to legislate for discrimination based on somebody's medical status. It is just unbelievable. The world has gone mad. The world has absolutely gone mad. It is wrong—totally wrong. To violate somebody's right to medical privacy is so totally wrong. To say that unless you can prove you are vaccinated you cannot come and sit in the Parliament is so wrong.

This motion is possibly one of the worst pieces of material that we have seen—I nearly said something else—come before this Parliament. Now, I am looking forward to seeing and thinking about some of the amendments that are coming up, and I am hoping that we might be able to adopt some room for movement, as it were. I am very much looking forward to that, because as things stand at the moment, as this motion is at the moment, I cannot support it. I cannot support it, and I will not support it. Unless it is amended to

the point where I am happy with it, I will not support this mandate—for MPs or for anybody else apart from the limited number of people that I spoke about earlier—for vaccination. I will most assuredly oppose this motion.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
26 October 2021**

Toxic soil: community anger

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My constituency question is to the Minister for Planning. The west of Melbourne is one of the major growth centres of the nation. Planning decisions every day impact upon the lives of many of my constituents. Whether it be the approval of a toxic soil dump right across the road from new residential developments or the possibility of major social housing developments in established residential suburbs, many locals are becoming increasingly angry about the minister's apparent refusal to listen to them at all. Minister, this is not good enough. My constituents need and deserve better. Ignoring them is something that I for one will not tolerate. Minister, will you turn over a new leaf and listen to and act on my constituents' concerns?

**COUNCIL | Members statements
26 October 2021**

Australian Labor Party

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— The Australian Labor Party was founded in 1891, and it takes great pride in being the oldest political party in Australia. It is worth considering what those who gathered under a tree in Queensland 130 years ago would make of the ALP in Victoria in 2021. The champions of working people may well be spinning in their graves at the actions of the current Premier of Victoria. How would they feel about a Labor leader who arbitrarily dismisses workers on the basis of their health status? What would the founders of the ALP think of a Premier who puts hundreds of thousands out of work for months on end on a whim? What would they

think of a Labor leader who crushes protests by those who object to being treated in this way by a supposed Labor government? Those bastions of the Labor movement would shake their heads in disgust at a Premier who has trashed everything the ALP is supposed to stand for. Looking at the current Premier of this state the founders of the Australian Labor Party would be well entitled to ask: why did we bother?

**COUNCIL | Public Accounts and
Estimates C'tee, 27 October 2021**

Inquiry into the Victorian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— It is always good to know that the government is reading the talking points and that the same arrogance that we have come to expect from the Premier is also being shared by the members of the backbench. The arrogance is full on. After they have destroyed this state they get up here and they have the audacity to lecture us, just as the Premier lectures us just about every day. He does not do it quite as often as he did last year, but he gets up there and he lectures and he berates and he abuses and he blames us and he carries on like a two-bob watch. The people of Victoria quite frankly have had a gutful of this Premier and they have had a gutful of this government—simple as that.

Ms Shing interjected.

Mr FINN: I'm sorry, I can't hear you. You're sounding a bit muffled. We are all sounding a bit muffled at the moment.

I rise to support Mr Limbrick's motion. I commend him for bringing this motion to the house today, although I am tempted to amend it. I will not, but I am tempted to amend it and set up a separate standing committee altogether, because I think this issue actually calls for that. What we have seen over the last two years in this state is the greatest hit on society that we are ever going

to see in our lives—any of us. I am not sure if the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee—and no reflection on PAEC—is quite up to the task of examining this in the way that it needs to be examined. I mean, we have had six lockdowns in the last two years—six lockdowns. We have become, courtesy of this Premier and this government, the most locked down city on the face of the earth. I mean, instead of being the sporting capital of the world, instead of being the culinary capital of Australia, the arts capital, all of those things, we are now the most locked down city on the face of the earth, and this government has done that.

Let us face facts. The virus is not the biggest threat to Victoria; the Andrews government is. Just look at what they have done. Just look at what they have done over the past—well, it is less than two years, isn't it. At the beginning of last year we were going along hummily. Certainly there were some problems with the government spending and so forth. We knew that the government was in debt. That all predates the virus. But then the virus hit and the Premier had his—what would you call it—Napoleon moment, I suppose, where he thought he would step forward and save us all. And he would indeed save us—by burning the place down. That is what he did.

You just have to have a look at the economic impact of what he has done to this state. I would invite members to go down Bourke Street, but we know what happens if you do that. You do not want to do that, because members of the government object very strongly if you suggest that you walk down Bourke Street and actually have a look at what has happened down there.

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Mr FINN: Well, I am not going there, Mr Ondarchie. I am not going there. As late as last night I walked down Little Bourke Street. Now, we are told by members of the government that things are back to normal. You know, 'Everything is beautiful again in Melbourne. The place is booming.' Well, that is just bulltish. The fact of the matter is if you walk down through the city—as I did last night, as I said—Little Bourke Street used to be the most vibrant place in Australia. It was absolutely amazing; the vibe in the place was just extraordinary. Last night the number of restaurants that were closed, despite a crack of

Local Government Amendment (Rates And Charges) Bill 2021

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I thank Mr Erdogan for his apology. It is accepted. Mr Erdogan has much to apologise for, and I thank him for that indeed. I just wonder, listening to Mr Erdogan's address to the house, did he actually mention local government at all? He rabbited on about what the Andrews government was doing and what it was not doing and did not go anywhere near what he should have been talking about. I am not actually sure if he mentioned local government at all. That is the crux of this bill and what it is about. It is about the impact of local government on its ratepayers and particularly small business.

I have always said that the best form of government is a good local government, the worst form of government is a bad local government—and I have experienced both. I remember when I was first elected to the other place back in 1992 there was a shire that I represented, the Shire of Bulla. Mr Ondarchie well remembers the Shire of Bulla. That was an extraordinarily well-run council. It was a council that I was very proud to work with. It did a great deal for the local community but also a great deal for small businesses. John Watson, Kathy Duncan, a whole range of people on that council, Phillip McMahon—I could go all day, there were so many of them. They all did a great job for the Shire of Bulla and it really was a delight to be able to work with those people because they actually understood what was going on in their community. I suppose the crux of a good local government is the understanding of what the local community needs, what it wants and the ability to balance perhaps the two. I often look back and think back to the days of the Shire of Bulla and deeply regret that it no longer exists.

freedom that we can see, was quite astounding. And I suspect there will be a lot of restaurants in Little Bourke Street, throughout Melbourne and throughout Victoria who will not be reopening at all. They have had a fatal hit from this government.

It is not just in the CBD. If you go to any suburban shopping centre, you will see the empty shops and you will see the 'For lease' signs. We have not been able, of course, to go to any country regions or any country centres of late, but I am looking forward to doing that, and I suspect that we will see the same thing in those centres.

You know, we are supposed to be overjoyed that we can go shopping again as of Friday. Well, I tell you what, I do not know too many small business operators that are actually jubilant that this has come to pass, because they have all had to put up with the economic impacts of this government. Prior to this current lockdown—and it is still a lockdown—we lost 111 000 small businesses in this state, and we are losing small businesses at the rate of at least 100 a week. You fear to think what has happened to the owners and the employees of those small businesses. It is, and it continues to be, absolutely devastating for them and for the economy of this state.

The human rights abuses that we have seen have been astonishing—absolutely astonishing. There is nothing that the government can be proud of in that regard, nothing whatsoever, when you consider the number of people who died last year. The WorkCover investigation—what has happened to that?

Mr Ondarchie: I can't recall.

Mr FINN: Mr Ondarchie cannot recall. None of us can recall, apparently, what has happened to the WorkCover investigation. I would dearly love to know.

And of course we have seen riots in the streets. We have seen the police, who I have been a strong supporter of and I am still a strong supporter of, use weapons and use tactics, I suppose, that normally we would not see. I was told by one police officer's family that that was an order that came straight from the Premier's office. It did not come from the chief commissioner. It did not come from police command. It came straight from the Premier himself.

Ms Crozier: The power-hungry Premier.

Mr FINN: The power-hungry Premier, as we know. So much for politicians not interfering in operational matters of the police—just appalling. Now he has introduced medical apartheid. Those who are not double vaxxed cannot sit in Parliament, cannot go to the footy, cannot go to the pub—they are second-class citizens. I never thought in this state, in this country we would have a situation where we would have a two-tiered society, where some people have rights and others do not. I never thought I would see that in my lifetime—just extraordinary.

We could go on to talk about the education destruction, and there are going to be a lot of kids who are going to be suffering for a very long time. When you consider that this has been going on for two years, you just think of those kids who were just about to finish their last two years of education. That has been destroyed. I know with my own two daughters who are still at school, it has totally disrupted their studying habits and their learning habits. It is pretty diabolical.

We then have the mental health crisis in this state. It is a huge crisis. It was big before; it is absolutely huge now—purely because we have a government that just does not care about that. Then of course, just as we see, as I mentioned before, a crack of freedom through the opening door, the Premier comes in and says, 'Well, I'm going to introduce a permanent pandemic bill. I am going to be all powerful. I am going to control your lives forever.' Good God, it is absolutely horrifying. So we do need this motion to pass. I can understand why the Andrews government does not want this motion to pass, because the last thing that Daniel Andrews wants is accountability. The last thing he wants is to be held accountable by the people of Victoria or by this Parliament. I support the motion.

Despite the best efforts of Sunbury to get out of the City of Hume that, of course, has been thwarted by this government. The Labor Party prior to the 2014 election promised the people of Sunbury that they could get out of the City of Hume, they could establish their own municipal future. Then, of course, when they were elected the government turned its back on that commitment—not for the first or the last time, I hasten to add. But that is something that I know the people of Sunbury and the people of Bulla will not forget in a hurry. That is a tragedy, in my view, because the people of Sunbury and Bulla have really missed out in the Hume conglomerate—missed out in comparison to, say, Craigieburn or Broadmeadows. That is the unfortunate fact of life. To go from the Shire of Bulla to the City of Hume was a hell of a culture shock for a lot of people and we still have not quite recovered from it, it has to be said, and I think that is probably going to be the way for quite some time.

The Shire of Bulla is an example of a good council, of a good local government. I could go on for quite some days about some of the examples of bad local governments. The City of Wyndham is a classic example.

Ms Lovell interjected.

Mr FINN: Deputy President, I have looked back in stunned amazement at the City of Wyndham as its councillors have brawled and have put their own personal agendas and catfights ahead of the welfare of the people of that municipality. I have often called for the council to at least be held accountable if not sacked by the government, but of course that has not happened, which is a great pity and not surprising. They were sacked years ago, but they have not been sacked lately and that is a pity.

Ms Lovell interjected.

Mr FINN: Not Wyndham, no. That was Brimbank.

Ms Lovell interjected.

Mr FINN: Whittlesea, was it? Yes, Whittlesea. Well, look, let's face it, there is no shortage of local governments that probably could come into that category, but Wyndham is a classic example. We have had Brimbank, and we know what happened in Brimbank and unfortunately some of the shenanigans in Brimbank are creeping back in.

Thankfully we have councillors like Cr Trung Luu and also Cr Maria

Kerr on the Brimbank council, who are holding the powers that be to account. They are doing a great job. And next door in Melton we have Cr Julie Shannon, Cr Moira Deeming and Cr Goran Kesic, the deputy mayor, who are also doing a brilliant job—also Cr Kathy Majdlik, the mayor there. They are doing a good job, a great job, for the community, and I commend them. I wish we had more councillors like them instead of some of the ones that we have around the place who regard themselves as some sort of little tin gods—you know, people like Jack Medcraft from Hume, who regards himself as perhaps more important than anybody else on the earth. We need people like the ones that I mentioned before who really take the people seriously, take their jobs seriously but do not necessarily take themselves too seriously, and that is extremely important as far as I am concerned.

I mentioned before one of the big issues that we face with local government and that this bill deals with is the impact of local government and its actions on small businesses. Small business particularly at the moment is really struggling. I have run a small business myself. I know how difficult it can be. I know what it is like to hang around—we do not have to hang around waiting for the cheque to arrive anymore, but I remember in the old days we had to do that—and then race down to the bank and pay the extra money needed to clear it earlier so we could actually eat. Members opposite would not know what I am talking about because I do not think any of them have actually run a business, but I have been there. I have experienced that, and I fully understand what many small business people are going through now. It is horrendous. I mean, it is a horrible, horrible situation for small business right across this state, and so many have already gone to the wall. Sadly, so many small business people already have taken their own lives as a result of what has happened in the last two years or a little less, and that is an untold tragedy of this pandemic. It is an untold tragedy that hopefully one day will be told. We will be able to look at this entire situation with honesty and we will be able to examine with some degree of truth what has occurred during this time. I do not wish to overly politicise this, but I feel that that will

be after the political demise of the Premier, because at the moment truth and honesty are something that we are not going to get from this government or anybody associated with it. And that is a sad thing for the people of Victoria.

But the small business community is suffering in a huge way. The last thing it needs is local government firing up and inflicting more pain on people who are in many ways just hanging on by their fingernails, and I am sure there are members from right around the state who can back this up. People in metropolitan areas, country areas—they know people, as indeed do I, that are hanging on by their fingernails. They are really scratching just to survive. The last thing they need is local government slapping more rates on or more taxes, more charges. That is the last thing we need, and that is what this bill sets out to prevent. It is about protecting those small businesses and the people that those small businesses employ. That is what this bill is about.

Mr Ondarchie before mentioned the City of Yarra. How could we not mention the City of Yarra when we are talking about bad, bad local government. I mean, if you are talking about bad councils, shocking councils, disgraceful councils, then you are talking about the City of Yarra, because the City of Yarra, I do not know if it has got clowns, I do not know if it has got elephants, but it is a circus, let me assure you. The latest commitment by the Yarra council—and Mr Ondarchie might be able to help me as to how much we are looking at for that artwork—

Mr Ondarchie: Nearly \$72 000.

Mr FINN: \$72 000 for a piece of artwork to tell us all about the climate emergency, which of course we all know does not exist. So I do not know where these councils get off with this stuff. You might as well put up a painting of Donald Duck. It would be just as effective. So here we have these councils pushing along their political barrow irrespective of the truth or otherwise. They do not care. It is a political point to be made, and they will probably go to—I was going to say some sort of fest—some conference at some stage and they will all get a round of applause and a pat on the back, and the comrades from here, there and everywhere will all raise a glass of the finest French champagne to their honour.

It is a wonderful thing to be a Green. I tell you what—I have said this before—I wish I could afford to vote Green. I would not; I just wish I could afford to, because you have got to have a lot of money in the kick to even consider voting for them, because you know it is going to cost you an arm and a leg. You just have to talk to the small business people in Richmond and Collingwood and so forth. They will tell you what sort of council the Yarra council is. I have friends, as you might expect—a number of friends—in Richmond, who are in despair at what their council is up to. They tell me stories that fair dinkum would curl your hair and have almost done the same to me from time to time. It is quite astonishing. If only the Yarra council would stick to putting up black and yellow lights on the town hall at grand final time, we would be happy with that. I know you, Deputy President, would be as happy as I am at the prospect of that.

I think we really have to look at the role of local government, because there seems to me to be a lot of councils that have actually gotten away from their key role. I know there is a lot of cost shifting on. I know state governments have put a lot of responsibility on councils and not given them the appropriate funding in order to support them. I know that goes on. But that does not take away from the fact that there are a lot of councils who are involved in things that quite frankly they should not be, and political campaigns are among them. It is not up to councils to spend their ratepayers money on pushing political campaigns, on pushing their own barrows. It is a criminal waste, in my view, and I have long been frustrated, annoyed, furious, at councils that do this. It seems to me that those councils are invariably of the left—almost always of the left. In fact I cannot remember a council not of the left that has done this.

Mr Ondarchie: Ask Rick Garotti.

Mr FINN: We will get to Rick Garotti. Oh, we have not got enough time to get to Rick Garotti, sadly. Members opposite have to realise that councils are there for more than branch-stacking purposes. That is something that members opposite should learn. We know that it is not just the Labor right that are involved in this. We know the left is involved in it as well. I see Mr Tarlamis over there—I suspect he knows it too.

But that is, I suppose, beside the point. I wish to get back to the bill, and the bill is a very important one. It espouses a very important principle, and that principle is that small business operators and their employees have a right to do their business without local government screwing them over.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
27 October 2021**

Keilor Downs development

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter this evening—this afternoon, almost—for the attention of the Minister for Planning. It concerns a number of items of correspondence that I have received from constituents in Keilor Downs who are deeply concerned about a development at 21A Copernicus Way in Keilor Downs. I know that is not how it is pronounced, but it is the best I can do late on a Wednesday afternoon. They are very, very concerned about the 47 units that are going to be built on this site.

It is a social housing development built by Bapcare. They are not opposed to social housing, not at all, but they are very concerned about this particular development, and I can understand that. Having spoken to Cr Maria Kerr of Brimbank council and having received, as I say, a number of items of correspondence on this from locals in the area, I can fully understand why they are expressing their concerns. One of the reasons they are expressing their concerns is that they basically have not been consulted properly. You know, this is something that we have seen time and time and time again under this government. Consultation does not seem to exist, or at least proper consultation does not seem to exist. I am very hopeful that on this occasion we might be able to do something about it, because this is something that affects a great number of people.

Keilor Downs is a great area. A great number of families live there. It is a very, very nice area, and they obviously have concerns about the impact this development, or the size of this development, will have on their lives, and you can understand that. So what I am asking the

minister to do tonight is to join me and Cr Kerr to meet with the locals in Keilor Downs. Let me know a date, and I will organise it. Certainly the minister will be given a very warm welcome, but he will leave in no doubt as to the views of local people. As I say, they are not against Bapcare, they are not against social housing; they are expressing their deepest concerns about the size of this development and the impact that it will have on traffic and other utilities. It is something that really they should be heard on, and I am hoping the minister can see his way clear to join us on this occasion.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
28 October 2021**

Keilor Downs social housing concerns

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Planning, and I refer the minister to considerable disquiet among residents of Keilor Downs who have had a proposed social housing development in Copernicus Way in Keilor Downs. I have received a number of emails from constituents, some expressing concern about the size of the development, all expressing anger about the lack of consultation with local residents. We know that the Andrews government does not hold consultation in high regard—that is somewhat of an understatement—and I am keen to ensure that the people of Keilor Downs are heard on this occasion. In raising this matter, I commend Cr Maria Kerr of Brimbank City Council for her advocacy for her community on this and many other issues. I wish we had more councillors just like her. Minister, the concerns of Keilor Downs residents must be aired. Will you join me and Cr Kerr at a meeting of locals so that they can have their say on this proposed development?

COVID-19 Vaccination

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I wish to raise a matter on the adjournment this evening—I am sorry that she is packed up and ready to go—for the attention of the Attorney-General. I have not hidden the fact that I have some considerable contempt for the actions of the Premier in institutionalising discrimination in the way that he has set up a system of persecution of those who either have decided not to be vaccinated or indeed medically cannot be vaccinated. I think it is appalling that we have a two-tiered system in this state where some people have all the rights and a minority have no rights at all. It is just beyond the realm of any form of decency, in my view, that we have come to allow this to happen here in Victoria. I shake my head in disbelief. But I particularly shake my head when I hear reports that some doctors are refusing to treat people who are not vaccinated. Some doctors are even refusing to treat some children who are not vaccinated. That brings another component into it altogether, when children are involved. But I think we have got a particularly bad situation, an evil situation in fact, if doctors are refusing to treat patients who are not vaccinated.

What I would like the Attorney-General to do is to give us a ruling, if you will, on the legality of that. I do not know whether that is legal. I do not know whether you can discriminate. If medical doctors can discriminate against people, can deny them life-giving treatment, on the basis of whether they are vaccinated or not, it seems to me that we have an anti-discrimination law in the state that is not worth two bob. It is not worth a pinch of anything. I ask the Attorney-General to give us a ruling, taking into consideration the anti-discrimination laws, taking into consideration the charter of human rights and taking into consideration all the legal infrastructure that we have in this state. I ask her to give us a ruling as to whether this treatment of people, or non-treatment of people, is legal.

Health Department raid on local doctor

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My constituency question is to the Minister for Health. On Wednesday of last week one of my constituents was raided by so-called authorised officers at his surgery in Sunshine. Dr Mark Hobart is a respected and much-loved GP of 30 years. This raid on his surgery has shocked and indeed horrified many locals. They cannot understand why the government would take such action against their family doctor, who they know to be a very good man. What has disgusted them in particular is the seizure of their confidential health records. Minister, do you and the government respect the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship, and if so, will you ensure that my constituents' medical records are returned immediately from where they were taken and allow Dr Hobart to continue to serve them into the future?

COVID-19

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— 'I don't know what half of them are protesting about.' So said Premier Daniel Andrews earlier this year when demonstrations against his regime began on the streets of Melbourne. What a pity he was not out the front of this building last Saturday afternoon. He would have been left in no doubt that he is the subject of their anger, and in particular his attempts to claim all power over just about everything. It was my very great honour to address a crowd of, according to police estimates, 90 000, all committed to freedom for Victoria. The crowd was huge—it was absolutely huge. In fact I stood on the back of a truck and I could not actually see where the crowd finished. I have not seen a protest that size since the dying days of the Kirner government. Is history repeating itself?

It was also diverse—a word that the Labor Party like to use. There were young, there were old, there were female and male—people from every part of Victoria, from every background, the vaccinated and the unvaccinated, singles and families. Such a magnificent gathering was the people expressing—peacefully—their opposition to the Andrews government and its ongoing attempts to shaft Victorians. Thousands have returned again today, and I invite the Premier to walk down the steps to speak to them. It just might do him a world of good. Indeed it might do us all a world of good.

Public Health And Wellbeing Amendment (Pandemic Management) Bill 2021

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I rise to speak on the Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (Pandemic Management) Bill 2021, the pandemic bill as it has been referred to the length and breadth of the state over recent times. I have to commend Ms Patten. She almost kept a straight face there for a while, and I think given what she was saying that was a damn good effort, because if I was coming out with the nonsense that she was coming out with, I certainly would not have been able to keep a straight face in the manner that she almost did. It reminds me of the last time we debated the state of emergency towards the end of last year when Ms Patten gave the immortal quote, 'This is not about lockdowns'. That was before lockdowns 3, 4, 5 and 6, before the Premier made Melbourne the most locked down city on the face of the earth. Look, I do not wish to be too harsh on Ms Patten, but when we come to this subject I think we can take what she says with a grain of salt, and that is certainly what I intend to do.

What I also intend to do is to quote Henry Wadsworth Longfellow from

the Masque of Pandora—and that is not entirely inappropriate, the Masque of Pandora—from 1875. The quote is: ‘Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad’. I reckon there is a fair chance he was looking into the future and thinking about Daniel Andrews when he wrote those words. Does he seriously think people are going to cop this? Does he seriously think that Victorians are going to wear what he is trying to pull here today? Does he seriously think that Victorians are mad? I tell you what, if he does, he is the mad one—if indeed he does. The Premier has his lapdogs on the crossbench, and fair enough, that is all very well, but people in the streets, in the suburbs, in country Victoria, will not wear this. They will not wear this.

I was at a rally on Saturday where there were some 90 000 people according to Victoria Police. And if you had been there, you might have estimated a few more because it was, as I said this morning, the most massive crowd I have seen at a demonstration since the anti-Kirner-government demonstrations of 1992. We know what happened at the end of 1992, so it may well be that history is repeating itself. We can certainly hope so.

But let me tell you, the people that were in the streets in such enormous numbers on Saturday are not going to wear what this government is trying to pull here, what this Premier is trying to pull. The people out the front now are not going to wear it. It is quite extraordinary that here on a Tuesday you have got people who are prepared to sleep, to camp overnight, on the steps of Parliament in a vigil against this legislation, such is their commitment. Let us face it, the majority of people in this state, and indeed in this country, do not have a great involvement in politics, nor do they have a great interest in politics. But I tell you what, what Daniel Andrews has done, what this government has done, is give the people of this state a reason to have an interest in politics and a reason to get involved in politics, and that is what is happening. Every cloud has a silver lining, and that is the silver lining—the number of people who are getting involved in politics now because they want to get rid of this Premier, they want to get rid of this government, and I say good on them. Those people will be there again all night tonight, I understand, and I wish them well. I hope it does not rain as it did on us on Saturday.

I commend them. I commend them for their commitment. I commend them for taking a stand in support of freedom in this state, because God knows, somebody has to—so well done to them.

Now, there is no doubt that the Premier has way too much power in this state already. Already he has way, way too much power, but if this bill is passed, he will have control of just about everything. There is not much that he will not be able to control. And he will be able to call lockdowns at—

Ms Terpstra: On a point of order, Acting President, I would like to understand what Mr Finn is trying to say when he says the Premier will have—

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Ms Terpstra: Excuse me, can I finish? Could Mr Finn please explain what—

Members interjecting.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Bourman): Order! Everyone, can I just hear the point of order in silence, please.

Ms Terpstra: What part of the bill is he referring to when he says the Premier has uncontrolled power?

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Bourman): That is not actually a point of order. But, Mr Finn—

Ms Terpstra: It is misleading the house.

Mr FINN: It is not misleading the house, and you know damn well it is not misleading the house, because that is what this legislation is about. It is giving a megalomaniac more power; that is what it is about. And there is no question about that.

Mr Leane: On a point of order, Acting President, Mr Finn referred to the Premier as a megalomaniac, and I think he needs to withdraw that and maybe get closer to the bill. I am sure he has no idea what is in it, but he should have a crack.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Bourman): Mr Finn, can I get you to withdraw the ‘megalomaniac’ comment without—

Mr FINN: Look, I am happy to withdraw the word ‘megalomaniac’ with reference to the Premier, but I invite Mr Leane to go down the steps of this place and take a straw poll and see what the people down there think of that word—and I tell you what, there would be a few others that they would throw around as well.

This bill is purely a matter of trust, and you have got to ask: why would the people of Victoria put their trust in Daniel Andrews? After everything he has done to this state over the past two years, after everything he has done to the people of this state over the past two years, why would anybody trust him when he says, ‘Oh, no, I’m not going to lock you down’? Remember earlier this year—we were all very excited when he came back from his accident; we were all very excited. On the first day he said, ‘There’s going to be no more lockdowns’. Within a week he had us back in lockdown, and he has rarely had us out since. Why would anybody believe him? Why would anybody trust him? This bloke—one day I am going to introduce him to the truth, and they will both get a shock. It will be quite stunning for both of them.

Now, what has happened over the past two years has happened of course before this legislation has gone into law. God knows what will happen to us once the Premier—and I nearly said something else—has the sort of power, the sort of total control, that he wants under this legislation. On Wednesday of last week seven authorised officers—and don’t you love that word; it is a bit like ‘authorised workers’, very Stalinist Russia; you have got to be authorised to do this, authorised by the government to do that—raided the medical surgery of one of my constituents, Dr Mark Hobart. I know Dr Hobart not well, but I know that he is a very well respected GP in the Sunshine community. I know that he has been serving the people of Sunshine for 30 years, and there are many, many hundreds if not thousands of people in the Sunshine area who rely upon him for their medical needs. It is stunning that you have a situation where a doctor’s surgery can be raided by these authorised officers, where confidential medical information can be taken by these people—and God knows where they have put it; God knows what they are doing with it. But the fact of the matter is that there are potentially thousands of people in my electorate, thousands of my constituents in the Sunshine area, whose medical files are wandering around somewhere—we do not know where—all as a result of the power of these authorised officers.

If that can happen now, what is going to happen when

this legislation—if indeed this legislation—is actually passed? What is going to happen? It is just extraordinary to even contemplate. If Daniel Andrews is sending blokes in jackboots into medical surgeries to raid people’s medical files now, what is he going to do with the legislation next week or the week after? What is he going to do?

Mr Leane: On a point of order, Acting President, Mr Finn needs to withdraw that Daniel Andrews has been sending authorised officers with jackboots into premises. It is actually quite offensive.

Mr Ondarchie: On the point of order, Acting President, Mr Leane has absolute ability to debate this as part of the second-reading debate, so I would invite him to do that rather than continue to interject on Mr Finn and tie up his time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Bourman): Mr Finn, can you withdraw the ‘jackboot’ comment, please.

Mr FINN: Are you aware of what they were wearing, Acting President? Okay, the thonged authorised officers. They were wearing thongs. Are you happy with that? Next you will be talking to Ms Shing about walking down Bourke Street.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Bourman): Mr Finn, withdraw the comment, please.

Mr FINN: I withdraw. What an extraordinary thing, when you cannot use the word ‘jackboot’ in the Parliament of Victoria—just extraordinary.

Many people have used the word over the past 18 months, two years, ‘unprecedented’. I am absolutely sick to death of the word ‘unprecedented’. Everywhere you go you hear it—‘unprecedented’. But here we have a Premier and a government who are seeking unprecedented power for itself and indeed for himself. And I tell you what: given his record over the past two years, he does not deserve it. The damage that he has caused this state is indeed unprecedented. He does not deserve the power that he seeks. And if you do not want to believe me, ask the Victorian Bar Council, ask the Ombudsman, ask the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, ask the 60 QCs who have come out condemning this legislation. Sixty QCs—how the hell does anybody get 60 QCs to agree on anything? That is unprecedented. It is just absolutely extraordinary.

On the matter of trust, the Victorian people see this crowd over the road here and they remember the red shirts rorts. They remember the refusal of members opposite to cooperate with the police. They remember the quarantine inquiry where nobody remembered anything. And now the Premier is saying, ‘Trust me’. Well, I tell you what: they will not, and I do not blame them one little bit. The people are marching in the streets not because they are some sort of right-wing Neo-Nazi or white supremacist or something; they are ordinary Victorians who are frustrated, who are angry and who have been ignored by Daniel Andrews for far too long, and they have had enough. They are being pushed to breaking point. They are being pushed to a position where they are doing things that they have never done before.

The overwhelming majority of people who were out the front there on Saturday had never marched before. They had never been at a protest before—never. But that is something that we have come to accept, that that is now apparently a way of life. Why would anybody trust the Premier when he will not release the public health advice that he uses to lock us down, to lock down our businesses, to put us out of work and to have medical apartheid in this state? Why would anybody trust Daniel Andrews when he will not tell us the medical health advice that he based his curfew on, when he locked us in our homes all night? Why would anybody trust him? It is just extraordinary. This bill is appalling and this bill should be defeated. I will vote to kill the bill.

**COUNCIL | Motions
17 November 2021**

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — Acting President, you will have to excuse the laughter that you heard when Ms Taylor rose and accused the opposition of playing politics, because if anybody plays politics in this place, it is the Premier. Everything he does is about politics.

Do not worry about the public good. Do not worry about what is right or wrong, just what is good for his political survival and indeed political advancement. That is what we have come to expect from him, and he always delivers.

The Andrews government is coming up to almost eight years in office, and after eight years the level of public confidence in our system, the level of public confidence in politicians, is at rock bottom. I do not recall it ever being so low. That has a huge amount to do with the activities of this Labor government. The general view in the community is that the Andrews government is putrid. It is putrid, or, as somebody said to me this morning, rancid—I think that is probably a good word. Either way the majority of Victorians see the Andrews government and believe that it stinks to high heaven.

We have seen a situation over recent years where corruption and the Victorian ALP have become synonymous. You cannot separate them. You cannot have one without the other, a bit like love and marriage, as they say. You have Victorian Labor, you have corruption; you have corruption, you have Victorian Labor. That is just the way it is.

Before we get to IBAC, let us have a look at some of the incidents that they have been involved in of recent years. The red shirt rorts scandal, where they ripped off the Victorian taxpayer and then spent a million taxpayer dollars to try to stop the Ombudsman. They actually took it to the High Court to try and stop the Ombudsman investigating what they had done, and of course that was part of their campaign to get themselves elected in 2014. They have been crooked from day one. In fact they have been crooked since before day one, and that is indisputable. There is no doubt that people would accept that the length and breadth of Victoria.

When there was an investigation and the Ombudsman raised her concerns, and rightly so, after the High Court battle to stop her by a government that is very, very keen to cover up what it has done, what the Ombudsman discovered was that we have a government that is not on the up and up. Just to prove that, when the police investigated this matter members of the ALP, members of this house and members of the other house, refused to cooperate with the

police. Now, I have to say to you that there is only one reason, in my view, that you would refuse to cooperate with police in a police investigation, and that is if you are guilty, if you have got something to hide. That is the only reason that you would refuse to cooperate with the police.

Ms Symes interjected.

Mr FINN: The Attorney-General has found her voice all of a sudden, and it does not surprise me that the Attorney-General has found her voice because she knows that her government is guilty. She is aware of what has happened within her government and she is aware of the cover-ups in her government. I do not wish to cast aspersions on the Attorney-General, but the fact of the matter is that it may well be that she is aware of the cover-ups that are still going on within her government.

We have seen the refusal of ALP members to cooperate with the police, and—this was in the ALP's own organ, the Age—they announced just last week that police command has been involved in covering up for the ALP. How far does this corruption go? You have got to ask, and I think there is an increasing number of Victorians asking that very question: just how far does the corruption in Victoria go? This is something that I am sure will come out in the fullness of time, and I am quite looking forward to that.

Last year we had the quarantine inquiry, which was designed to prevent us getting to the truth, and it did that quite successfully—very successfully. We had the Premier, we had various ministers get up—

Ms Symes: On a point of order, Acting President, whilst I have become somewhat desensitised to the dulcet tones of Mr Finn, on my way out my point of order would be that he is making a contribution that is very far ranging and not relevant to the specific motion, which is pretty clear on what we are supposed to be talking about.

Mr FINN: On the point of order, Acting President, the fact of the matter is that corruption is central to this particular debate, and that is what I am talking about. I can fully understand why the Attorney is sensitive. I can fully understand why the Attorney-General is trying to shut me down, just like she has tried to shut everyone else down, but on this occasion she is wrong. On this occasion she is totally wrong: I

am very much debating the issue at hand.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Ms Patten): Mr Finn, you are debating right now, but I just ask for the 3 minutes that you have left that we stick to the points of the motion.

Mr FINN: Okay. Well, look, we will do that. We will do that because we do not want to talk about what happened at the quarantine inquiry. I can understand why the Attorney-General is heading for the door. I would be ashamed of what she has just done, too. But anyway, that is just par for the course with the Victorian ALP, isn't it—just par for the course for the way that it operates.

We have seen over recent weeks at the IBAC inquiry a theme develop very, very quickly that has been strengthened enormously over the last couple of weeks, particularly by Mr Somyurek, of a culture within the Victorian ALP which is quite disgraceful. Interestingly enough, there is only one side of the ALP that seems to be involved in this culture. I find that very hard to believe. I find it very, very hard to believe that it is only the Labor right that is involved in the branch stacking and the dirty deals and looking after staff and family members of other people. I find it very hard to believe that the Premier's own faction has apparently never been involved in any of that. Well, Mr Leane, who is a man of the world, knows what is going on and has been going on in the ALP. He knows they have been at it for years. If the Labor right has been branch stacking, they need to have been branch stacking against somebody. I mean, you just do not branch stack against yourself. So I am looking forward to Mr Leane's contribution on this, I really am.

We have seen over recent weeks at the IBAC inquiry a definite trend that became apparent very, very quickly that there is a culture of corruption within the Victorian Labor Party, and that is something that we need to fully expose. If we want to regain the confidence—and I say 'we' as a member of the system, as it were—of the public, of the community, then we have to expose fully this culture of corruption that the ALP has and remove it, destroy it. It is a cancer within our system, and there is only one way to treat a cancer, and that is to cut it out. That is what we have to do with this culture that the ALP has brought to

government—that the Premier has brought to government—because we cannot have a situation where members of this government, leaders of this government, are just all about themselves and to hell with the rest of the community.

Motion agreed to.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
17 November 2021**

Small business vaccination privacy

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Small Business. This morning I received an email from a constituent, who posed a problem that may be about to become a recurring theme, I feel. My constituent runs a small business at the Footscray Market and has done so for some 15 years. She recently received a demand by an authorised officer—I hate that term—of the Department of Justice and Community Safety, demanding she present to the department her record of vaccination status. My constituent regards this as a breach of both privacy and her human rights. My constituent now faces the very real prospect of having to close her business altogether. Minister, she clearly does not wish to shut up shop, and I ask what advice you and your department can offer my constituent in dealing with the dilemma that she faces.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
17 November 2021**

Point Cook Village

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter this evening for the attention of the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and it follows a visit that I paid to the Point Cook Village. It is a retirement village, surprisingly enough in Point Cook. I met with a number of residents of that village recently, and they expressed to me some very grave concerns that they have about a number of disputes that they have

with the committee of management and the management itself of the retirement village. One that jumps up at me quite extraordinarily is the decision by the management to sack the nurse who comes to visit, who came to visit once a week or twice a week. The decision was made to sack the nurse—during a pandemic, in a retirement village. Now, I do not know what they were thinking, but it seems to me that that is just insanity. That is just absolute insanity.

There are a whole range of issues that they are in conflict over, and they involve the maintenance of units. They involve the sale of units. It seems to me that there are a whole raft of issues that need to be addressed. Now, I have always been of the view that people in their retirement years should be relaxed. They should be enjoying life. You know, they should be enjoying the fruits of their labour over many years. They should not be forced to go through this form of conflict with management of the retirement village.

So I am absolutely gobsmacked at what has occurred here. What I am asking the minister to do is to intervene and to bring the parties together in a way where they can reconcile their differences so both parties can be happy with the results. We have over 400 residents in the village. It is a great village, I have got to say. It is in Point Cook, strangely enough. I might have mentioned that a couple of times, as a matter of fact. It is quite an impressive place, but there is just this culture of conflict—and it is not good. So I am hopeful that the minister might be able to put on perhaps her industrial hat, go to the Point Cook Village and bring the community, the residents and the management together so that we can have a degree of harmony that is necessary for people in their latter years to have a sense of relaxation and a sense of comfort that they are due after a lifetime of work.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
18 November 2021**

Hobsons Bay City Council: precinct 17

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My constituency question is to

the Minister for Planning, and I draw the minister's attention to the vote of Hobsons Bay City Council to reject applications for development of precinct 17 at 571–589 Melbourne Road in Spotswood. I am informed by locals the minister has previously approved these developments of the old Victorian Railways workshops without any proper consultation or indeed any master planning of the site. Council has conducted the appropriate consultation with its residents and has come to the view that this proposal is not in the best interests of locals. In particular I commend the new mayor, Cr Peter Hemphill—and congratulate him on his recent election—former mayor Jonathon Marsden and Cr Daria Kellander, who I might be so bold as to suggest would be an outstanding mayor in future, for the work that they have put into representing the public interest in this matter. Minister, will you now respect the decision of Hobsons Bay council and reverse your decision to develop precinct 17?

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
18 November 2021**

Melbourne Regional Landfill

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I do not need a survey to know what my constituents around the Ravenhall tip are concerned about. I raise a matter this evening for the attention of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. It has come to my attention very recently that Cleanaway, the operators of the landfill at Ravenhall, are now moving towards dumping asbestos at that particular landfill. Already they are dumping PFAS-infected soil at that site, and of course it is not far, not very far at all, from residential housing. But as we have seen with the toxic soil dump in Bulla, residential housing does not seem to be a problem to this government. They can dump all manner of poison near residences and apparently get away with it. But I really think the minister has to draw the line at asbestos. We all know what asbestos is capable of doing to people, and we all know what dreadful trauma it can cause, the deaths that it can cause. There is no doubt in anybody's mind as to

what the danger is of this particular material.

I was just horrified, I have to say, when I heard that Cleanaway was going down this path. I think we really have to start putting people's lives before companies' profits. That is really something that is extremely important, and I would have thought from a Labor government that that would have been something that would have come to them naturally—but clearly not. As I say, we have seen this in Bulla. We are seeing it now in Ravenhall with first the toxic soil—the PFAS-contaminated soil—and now with the prospect of asbestos being dumped in the middle of residential areas.

It is beyond the pale whichever way you look at it. It is totally intolerable that we would have to put up with that—that local residents would have to put up with that. How would anybody feel if they were to get a notice in their letterbox saying, 'We're going to dump asbestos across the road'? I mean, how would anybody feel if they got that sort of notice and they knew that the government would let them do it? It is not good enough. So, what I am doing tonight is I am asking the minister for the environment to step in to stop this material being dumped—to protect the lives and the health of local residents around the Ravenhall tip, because it is so important that we put them first.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
19 November 2021**

Sunbury Road duplication

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My constituency question is to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety—and I have to say that time appears to be running out for action on this, but I will give it one last try. The government's planned duplication of Sunbury Road between Bulla Hill and Sunbury is seriously flawed. It is only achievable by moving a bottleneck a little further up the road. As such it will be a monumental waste of public funds and cause major traffic issues for an extended period, for no positive result at all. I detest waste, and this is gold standard waste. Without the Bulla bypass this proposed duplication is

a very expensive joke. Minister, will you postpone these roadworks until such time as the Bulla bypass can be built and we can get the sort of road that local motorists both want and need?

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
19 November 2021**

COVID-19 Vaccination

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter this afternoon for the attention of the Premier. I raise it for his attention on the basis that I am someone who does care about the human rights of minorities. Unfortunately in this state at the moment there is a minority whose human rights are being abused, and we are seeing that on a daily basis. Whilst we are rapidly getting to 90 per cent of full vaccination, which I think is a very good thing, there are still a number who for various reasons are not vaccinated, and they are—well, they are not in danger of having their human rights abused, they are having their human rights abused. They are being denied full membership of the Victorian community. That, to my way of thinking, is wrong. People cannot access what many of us would describe as pretty basic services. People cannot even access medical facilities in certain instances. It is just not good enough.

We like to think of ourselves as an egalitarian society. We like to think of ourselves as a society that does respect the rights of all. At this point in time in Victoria—and indeed in other states, but we will just stick to Victoria for the moment in terms of this particular contribution—it is not happening. It is just not happening. I know people who feel like they are some sort of underclass. Indeed they are being treated as some sort of underclass. How that sort of thing can happen in Australia in 2021 is absolutely beyond me. This is the sort of thing we would have expected in the US perhaps 100 years ago or maybe in South Africa or somewhere. But for it to be happening in Victoria, for it to be happening in Australia, I think is an absolute disgrace.

I think it is appalling that the government has taken this attitude toward a significant section of

those it is supposed to represent. It is supposed to be looking after their interests, but in fact they are being frozen out by a government that is hell-bent on bashing its way to whatever end goal that it wants. So what I am asking the Premier to do this evening is to drop the vaccine mandates. We do not need them, clearly. Please start taking the community with you, stop the bullying, stop the threats and stop the vaccine mandates so that people can get on with their lives and each and every Victorian can feel a whole part of the community.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
30 November 2021**

More support for carers

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My constituency question is to the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, and I draw the minister's attention to the naming of one of my constituents, Aristeia Havelas, as a 2021 young carer ambassador for Victoria. She has been helping her brother Kon for most of her life and is very keen to see more support for carers in our community. I have to say I have known Aristeia's mum, Despina, for some years. She has done a remarkable job over a very long time to help families with autism and indeed is a former Brimbank Citizen of the Year, and richly deserved that was. She is truly amazing, and it is not surprising her commitment has been handed down to her daughter. As for Kon, he is a champion. Minister, what actions do you have in mind to increase support for carers of people with disabilities in Melbourne's west, and when will you put those thoughts into action?

**COUNCIL | Business of the house
30 November 2021**

Orders Of The Day

(Debate on the government motion seeking to postpone several matters including debate on the Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (Pandemic Management) Bill 2021)

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I have to say that in the time that I have been in this Parliament, in both houses of this Parliament, I do not recall a bill that has had a greater level of public interest than this legislation today. I have received well in excess of 15 000 emails. Now, that is almost unheard of—15 000 emails. And yes, I have responded to each and every one. Interestingly enough, no members of the government appear to respond to those emails, to those constituents reaching out to them offering their opinion on what is going on. And now we have a situation where the government is attempting to—after dealing with one Independent, it seems, for an extended period—debate a bill which is substantially different to the one that we debated two or three weeks ago. It is just absolutely nonsensical. You know, I am getting a lot of emails from people saying, 'When can we see the amendments? When can we consider the amendments?'. Well, the government says, 'We'll let you see them, but we won't let you consider them'. Now, that is a nonsense.

In a bill this important—and let us face facts: this is a very important bill. This is a bill that is as far-reaching a piece of legislation as has ever been before this Parliament. This legislation gives the Premier of this state unparalleled power. It gives the Premier of the state almost total control over every aspect of Victorians' lives. Now, if Victorians are not allowed to take time to consider and time to have consultation on this, you have got to wonder what the hell is going on, because this is something that does involve every single Victorian—simple as that, every single Victorian—and every single Victorian who wants to have a say should be allowed to do it.

Now, by rushing this through today—and keep in mind we were very happy, with the original bill, to debate it at the last sitting week, but the government did not want to do that. No, the government did not want to do that. No, but they want to do it today. This is largely a new bill, but the government wants to debate it anyway. Consultation and the Andrews government are not exactly great bedfellows, it has to be said. They do not consult on anything. You just have to listen to people from a wide cross-section of the community to understand that this government

is just not interested in consultation. And here they are again today, trying to speed this through before anybody knows exactly what is going on.

I urge the government to have a rethink on this, and I particularly urge Ms Symes to have a rethink on this. I think she is hopefully more of a reasonable person than is her leader—well, it would not be hard, I suppose—and I would hope that she would consider that the overwhelming majority of Victorians are very keen to have a say in what this legislation proposes and indeed more importantly what this legislation means for their future and their families' future, because that is what it does. We are talking about detention. We are talking about lockdowns. We are talking about a whole range of measures, all in the hands of the Premier. I was going to say 'and the health minister', but the health minister really does not know what is going on. It is all in the hands of the Premier, and that sends chills down the spine of every Victorian because we all know that the Premier of this state is addicted to power. He is addicted to control. He is looking forward to this legislation, and he is going to run amok.

So we need the time to consult with our constituents. We need time to fully and properly examine these amendments ourselves so that we can fully understand them. This matter is too important to be rushed through because, 'Hey, Labor's got the numbers.' It is too important for that, and I urge the government to take that into consideration. I urge Ms Symes in particular to do what she was talking a little bit earlier in the week about, and that is proper process. It is time that she implemented that with this bill.

**COUNCIL | Committee stage
30 November 2021**

Public Health And Wellbeing Amendment (Pandemic Management) Bill 2021

*Contributions during the
Committee stage of the Bill*

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— Attorney, by way of explaining the question that I am asking, I want to reference a couple of people that I know and the difficulties that they have faced of recent times as a result of the vaccine mandate. One is my little sister. She has been suffering from breast cancer for some 2½ years now. We thought last year that she had beaten it, but it came back, and she has been admirable, extraordinarily admirable, in her battle against this insidious disease. The tumour was shrinking, and it was looking good until she was vaccinated. It had such an impact on her that the tumour grew.

She obviously was deeply concerned by that, as anyone would be in that situation, I am sure. She went to the doctor to ask for an exemption, given that she did not want the tumour to continue to grow, and the doctor said no because the doctor had been told by the authorities that he could not do that. So much for the doctor-patient relationship—just absolutely extraordinary. So here we have a situation where a woman with breast cancer is in fact putting her life further in danger if she double vaxxes. That to my way of thinking is something that should not be an allowable or a tolerable thing in this state, but according to the Premier she is not allowed to go anywhere or do anything unless she is double vaxxed.

Another friend of mine, a man of about 40 or 41, I suppose, has very severe rheumatoid arthritis. Now, he has over a number of years had severe breakouts of this arthritis, and when he was vaccinated recently the breakout of the arthritis was

horrendous. He was in agony. He could barely walk, much less do anything else. Now, as you can imagine, he is not at all keen to get a second dose of this, given what the first one did to him. Anybody else in his situation I am sure would feel exactly the same. He was in a pretty bad way. He had never felt the sort of pain that he felt as a result of the vaccination having an impact and flaring up his rheumatoid arthritis.

I find it impossible to believe that the Premier would demand that he be double vaxxed in order to live a normal life. I mean, we are not talking here about people who have chosen not to be double vaxxed for whatever reason; we are talking here about two people who have very, very solid health grounds not to be double vaxxed, and they are being frozen out of society for their health problems. Now, this seems to me to be absolutely extraordinary and something that in Victoria in 2021 is surely inconceivable. It is just extraordinary. Attorney, what I am asking you is: how can the government insist that these two people go ahead and have another vaccination shot, given the difficulties that they have felt as a result of their first vaccination?

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— Once again, I think, Attorney, this in fact is well within the bill, because what we are talking about is the Premier endorsing a process whereby a couple of people who are suffering from acute illnesses are frozen out of society. Now, that is something that I find impossible to believe in this day and age, in 2021, in a supposedly civilised state. It is just extraordinary and certainly within the powers as prescribed in this particular legislation.

On another matter, I wish to draw to the Attorney's attention something that happened in my electorate just very recently, and I am sure the Attorney will be very aware of what I am talking about—that is, a raid by authorised officers of the government. 'Authorised officers'—very Stalinist, that term, isn't it? But it was authorised officers of the government that raided a local doctor's surgery in Sunshine, a doctor who has been a family GP in that area for 30 years. He had treated in that time thousands of local people. There are many, many local people who were dependent on him

for their health care. He is a man who is much loved in that community, a man who is very much respected in that community, but he was raided, for reasons that I am not aware of, by the authorised officers. Not only was he raided, but his medical files were taken. This seems to be a severe and clear breach of the doctor-patient relationship. We hear a lot about that in certain instances; in others apparently it does not matter. This is one of them.

I would like to know if under this legislation what has happened to Dr Mark Hobart in Sunshine is likely to happen to other doctors around the state. Will this be a regular event now? Under the Premier's control will we see doctors being raided? Will we see doctors being closed down? Will we see confidential medical files being taken away and God knows how many people left without a GP to look after their health issues? Is this something that we can expect to see if this legislation is passed? Can we expect to see it on a regular basis?

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— Minister, I go back to a question I asked earlier—unfortunately you did give an answer, but it was probably a little irrelevant to the question that I asked—and that is about the prospect of doctors being raided by authorised officers and confidential medical files being confiscated, as we have seen recently in Sunshine. What does this legislation do to the chances of that occurring again? Does this legislation increase the Premier's power to authorise such raids?

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— Attorney, it would have been nice to have a yes or no, but if you insist on that we will allow people to make their own judgement, I suppose. On another matter, and one that has been pursued a little bit tonight, what it has been suggested to me that I ask by a constituent is: does this legislation in any way give the Premier or the health minister the power to stop unvaccinated people from voting at the next election?

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I want to go back to an issue that I raised a little bit earlier, and I just want to clarify with the Attorney

if indeed she did make an offer to those unvaccinated Victorians who cannot get an exemption from the committee that she has asked them to apply to. I understand, if my recollection is correct, that she offered some assistance to them. If that is the case, I am very, very pleased, but I just wish the Attorney to clarify if indeed that is the case. For example, my sister has told me and I have been contacted by a number of people listening to this debate or watching this debate tonight who have said that they have been to their doctor and their doctor has said, 'Don't bother even trying, because you're not going to get an exemption. It doesn't matter what's wrong, you're not going to get an exemption.' This is happening all over the place. People are going to die because of this. You cannot get much more serious than that. So I am hoping that the Attorney will clarify that she is in a position to assist those Victorians who wish to make an application for an exemption of this nature.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— Alternatively, we could go to the funeral. Attorney, on another matter, you gave a guarantee before that this legislation would not prevent people voting at the next election. Given the Premier's enthusiasm for segregating the vaccinated from the unvaccinated, would this legislation prevent the unvaccinated from actually physically attending a polling booth with vaccinated people—the same polling booth?

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I am very interested to know what is so special about voting, given that you cannot be an unvaccinated person at a pub, being with vaccinated people, and you cannot be an unvaccinated person at a cinema and at a whole range of places, but apparently it is all right to go to a polling booth. I am just wondering what special significance the magic of a polling booth holds that protects people from the dangers of the unclean.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— That is why I am asking the question: I want to know if indeed this legislation gives the Premier

the power to stop this. I know we are jumping ahead a little bit, but later in the bill it says that the minister may make a pandemic order 'that the minister believes is reasonably necessary to protect public health.' Now, I would assume, given what has happened in so many instances already with regard to the segregation that has been put in place by the Premier, that the unvaccinated would not be allowed to attend the same polling booth as vaccinated people. That would be to my way of thinking a natural follow-on position given what has already happened in the state to this point.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Attorney will take that as a statement.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I rise to support the concept of transparency as well—it is easy for me to say at this hour of the morning. It is something that the government I think owes the people of Victoria. We have been asking and asking and asking for the CHO advice that has led to more lockdowns than anywhere else on the face of the earth. We have been asking for the advice that has led to the misery that millions of Victorians have suffered over the last two years, and I think it is about time that the government came up with the information. Indeed it is about time that the government is prepared to come up with the information that will justify future lockdowns if this legislation is passed. Because we all know what this legislation is about: this legislation is about lockdowns. Those of you who want lockdowns will vote for this bill; it is as simple as that. But what we want on this side of the house is transparency. We want to know what the hell is going on behind the scenes to justify some of the appalling antics that the Premier and the government have been involved in over the past two years.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— One of the great things that has disturbed me for the last couple of years in particular is the impression that the Premier gives that this Parliament to him is somewhat of a nuisance, that we are nothing but nuisance value and that he is much better on his own in a room with a couple of people running the show without having to consult

with anyone and without having to worry about the nuisance members of Parliament—the elected members of Parliament. In fact you have got to remember he did not even want to put up with his own cabinet; he cut it down to eight.

What hope would the rest of us, as mere members of Parliament, have to have any impact on the thought processes of the Premier if indeed he would not even listen to his cabinet? I think it is absolutely crucial that the Parliament sits during a pandemic—indeed during any crisis I think it is important that the Parliament sits—because we are on the ground. A good member of Parliament is on the ground, is talking to his or her constituents and is bringing the information that they get from those constituents here to Spring Street. A good government would listen, but of course the Andrews government is not really good at that at all. The Premier certainly is not.

I think it is absolutely crucial that we support Dr Cumming's amendment. I think it is absolutely important that the Parliament sits. I think it is absolutely important that we as members of Parliament do our job at a time when the people of Victoria need us more than ever. I am sure that every member of this house has had, over the last two years, more representations than ever before about the pain, about the suffering, about the difficulties—

A member interjected.

Mr FINN: The confusion indeed—that people have been through. In regional Victoria, in suburban Melbourne, wherever, people are feeling much the same way. The levels of anxiety are through the roof, and they contact us as a way of alleviating some of that anxiety. So I think it is vitally important that we as a Parliament sit, and I certainly support Dr Cumming's amendment.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to speak very quietly and very softly and very gently, but I also wish to say that I believe that human rights should be for all humans. And I think that to ditch the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities for one section of the community is appalling. I think that is just horrifying, and coming from a party which allegedly is based on human rights and respect for all and all that sort of thing makes it even worse. I just find it appalling that the people

who either will not or cannot—and many cannot—be vaccinated will be treated the way the government is proposing. I find that despicable, I find that appalling and I find that a breach of everything that this government is supposed to stand for. As I say, human rights are for all; you cannot pick and choose.

**COUNCIL | Members statements
02 December 2021**

Government Performance

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I have long held a deep-seated desire for those we represent to appreciate the ideals for which we in this Parliament stand. Sadly 2021 has not helped that ambition one little bit. Is it any wonder Victorians hold us in such contempt when a government elected on a platform of equality for all now enthusiastically mandates discrimination? It is no wonder we are held in such low regard when someone elected on an extreme libertarian platform ditches any pretence of commitment to freedom to jump into bed with a government that despises freedom. It is no wonder the electorate has no time for us when a man elected to fight for justice for his industry, which was comprehensively screwed over by the Andrews government, then votes for a bill that will see the entire state comprehensively screwed over by the Andrews government. And I am sure it is not just the taxi industry bewildered today.

Thankfully all is not lost. When I stand on a podium out the front of this building and all I can see is a massive sea of humanity—hundreds of thousands of people; indeed hundreds of thousands of Victorians—I know there is hope, and hope is something that we desperately need in this state. You can be guaranteed that this new movement, this people power movement, will continue to grow as long as the Premier of this state continues to act like a despot. In offering my very warmest wishes to members, staff and their families for a very happy and peaceful Christmas I assure you all that 2022 will be a year I will fight for the people of Melbourne's west and the ideals

Victoria needs to become great again like never before.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
02 December 2021**

COVID-19

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter this evening for the attention of the Premier. Premier, the problem that Victoria has at the moment in particular is that most Victorians are lockdown drunk. They live in fear that the Premier will pop up one day and just lock everything down again, and that is the simple fact of the matter. As late as last weekend I was at a christening, in fact, and the family that invited me to the christening—

A member interjected.

Mr FINN: Well, it will not be soon. They had booked a hotel in Richmond for lunch—which I thought was very nice—and it was a very nice lunch too. But as was explained to me by little Ruby's mum, they had been terrified the night before, unable to sleep, because there had been a couple of cases of the new variant. And that immediately struck them down with a desperate fear of lockdown.

This is happening all over the state, and I know out in the western suburbs it is happening from business to business, from family to family and from factory to factory. Everybody is terrified that the Premier is going to wake up one day and lock everybody down. The fact that we have this new legislation that has gone through this week has not helped that, not even one little bit. The mental health crisis that has been created by the lockdowns is not being helped by this constant state of anxiety that people are feeling about when they are going to be locked down again.

So I am asking the Premier to consider the vaccination rates, and I am asking him to consider the impact that the lockdowns have had on average Victorians. We are not talking about captains of industry or anybody like that, we are talking about families in the suburbs or in the country areas of Victoria. We are talking about people who just want to look after their kids, who just want to pay their mortgage and who just want to go out and work for a living. They are the sort of people that we

are talking about. They are the salt of the earth—people who pay their tax, observe the laws of the land and do all the right things. They are the ones who are suffering as a result of this fear, constant fear—lockdown phobia, if you like. It is something that is very real, and it is something that I am hoping the Premier will knock on the head. It would be easy for him to do. All he has to do is to call a press conference—and we know he can do that—and announce that there will be no more lockdowns, and that is what I am asking him to do. Tonight I am asking the Premier to call a press conference to announce to the people of Victoria that he will not be locking down our state again.

**COUNCIL | Second reading
02 December 2021**

Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — In rising to speak on the Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021, I want to commend Dr Bach in particular on his contribution to this debate today, and I want to compliment him on his contribution in the short time that he has been Shadow Attorney-General. I think he has grabbed the nettle very firmly. He is doing a very, very good job indeed, and I think his coverage of this legislation is a very good example of that.

In thanking and congratulating Dr Bach, I would also like to thank the many hundreds, maybe even thousands, of people who contacted me on both sides of this debate. My view, particularly over recent times, is that community input is exceedingly important. What we have seen over recent times is that many, many thousands of Victorians have taken the opportunity and they have used their right to contact their local MPs expressing a view on legislation that we had before this

house, and I think that is a very good thing.

I know that there is a petition against this legislation that currently stands at over 6000 signatures, and that is from both the Islamic and Jewish communities, so it is great to see that they are getting involved in our democratic process. I think that is something we can all be excited about at a time when perhaps there is not a great deal of reason to be excited about much else. But it is great to see people getting involved.

I cannot help but mention the irony of this government's putting forward of legislation against discrimination this week. When the Andrews government has actually mandated discrimination in the state, they then tell us it is so bad that we have to legislate against it elsewhere. If we could get some consistency from this government, it would be very, very handy indeed, because at the moment there is none. It makes no sense; they make no sense. You cannot be saying discrimination is great in one instance but discrimination over here is appalling. It is against various sections of the community. That is just not on.

I want to make it very clear—I want to put it on the record—I support equality. I very strongly support equality. I believe that every human being has equal value and should be respected by the law, irrespective of where they come from, who they are, what their sexuality may be, whatever they may be. If they are law-abiding citizens, then they should have equality before the law. They should have equality in our society. I believe that human rights are important. They are vitally important. In fact without rights we are somewhat less than human, and that is something that I have had a firm view on for quite some time. Of course one of those rights, and a very basic right at that, is the right to freedom of religion. It is a right that we have had as human beings probably since the beginning of time. Today we need to respect it as much as we have ever, and that is not necessarily happening. This legislation is a fine example of the lack of respect for the freedom of religion.

We have heard today about discrimination in religious schools on the basis of sexuality in particular, and I have got to ask the questions. Where? Who? I am sure that if this

sort of discrimination was going on in whichever school—whether they be Anglican schools, Catholic schools or whatever—we would all know about it. Any amount of money at all I would put down that we would all know about it, because there is a very organised lobby group, a very professional lobby group, and they know how to do their job. They do it exceedingly well, and if this was going on, we would all know about it. So why are we debating this bill today, when it seems to me there is no real reason to debate this bill today? The church schools are exhibiting tolerance. As I say, where are these people who have been sacked? Where are these kids who have been expelled? Where are they? I am sure we would know about it if this was happening. I have got no doubt about that at all.

The fact of the matter is that there is a war on people of faith, not just in Australia but indeed throughout the Western world. And I suppose you have got to include China and some places like that, but that is also a war of a different kind against people of faith. Quite frankly I have had enough. I have always been taught to turn the other cheek. That is what the good Lord told us, and I am happy to follow that. But there comes a time when the cheek gets very sore from being whacked—both sides in fact have been whacked rather severely—and you have got to say something. You have got to do something, and on this occasion I am going to do that.

This war on faith-based education in particular has been going on for a very, very long time. I remember as a very young child at a Catholic school in country Victoria not having any funding at all from the government. There was no support from the government, and indeed our school was regarded as somewhat of a second-rate school because they did not have the facilities that the state school up the road had. They did not have the grounds that the state school up the road had, and this was largely as a result of campaigning by a group known as DOGS, the Australian Council for the Defence of Government Schools. They campaigned long and hard, and very early on successfully, against taxpayer funds going to non-government schools. Of course, the fact that parents who send their kids to non-government schools are taxpayers did not seem to

worry them too much at all. They campaigned long and hard against any form of government funding for non-government schools, in particular Catholic schools. There was a fair degree of bigotry involved. The fact of the matter is that the leader of this group was somebody who is probably a name that is known to us all, the late Joan Kirner. She spent a long, long time ensuring that Catholic schools in particular were treated as second-class entities in the education system.

It staggers me that here we are, all these years later—many, many years later—and we have got the same attitude from the same sort of people: that religious schools have no place, that religious schools should be treated as second-class entities. Well, I say they should not. I say that we should stand up for the rights of parents and children who go to these religious schools. Everybody has the right to choose where they send their children. In fact if I had my way, I would go as far as having a choice, an ultimate choice, of governments paying at various schools of parents where they wanted to send their kids. I think it is basically very, very important.

A belief in God should not mean someone is somehow less than human, and it should not mean that there should be some sort of subsequent diminution of human rights. But that seems to be the attitude of a good number of people—and I am sure, Acting President Patten, you will know who I am talking about in this regard. The hatred directed toward people of faith has to stop. And there is hatred; there is persecution indeed of people in this society, in Melbourne, in Victoria. This persecution, this hatred, based purely on the fact that they have a belief in God, has to stop.

Now, we know, and as has been pointed out by Dr Bach—who I mentioned put in an exceptional contribution earlier, and I congratulate him on that again—the religions of Australia put in an enormous effort. They are punching way above their weight in contributing to the social good of the community. Hospitals, schools, hospices, immigration services, homeless centres—you name it—and churches, various churches, whether they be Christian or otherwise, are able to be seen to be contributing very much for the benefit of the community. Could we

imagine what would happen to our health system in this state if we were to close St Vincent's Hospital, if we were to close the Mercy hospital, if we were to close the Epworth? What would happen to our public health system? It would disintegrate on the spot. If we were to close every Catholic school—as Joan Kirner wanted to do all those years ago—in this state, what would happen? What would happen to the public education system? Again, it would disintegrate on the spot. Let us be serious here. Let us give people the respect that they deserve. Faith-based organisations, churches—call them what you will—contribute enormously to the state, and they deserve to be respected, not just sort of a little bit here and a little bit there but generally they should be respected for the contribution that they make.

We know that multiculturalism is a very big part of society in this state. We are very proud of that, and that is in my view a very good thing. And a very important part of multiculturalism is freedom of religion. I know for me, in the western suburbs, I would spend—well, I used to before lockdowns 4, 5, 6 and 7; oh no, we have not got to 7, that is coming—a great deal of time going out visiting churches, visiting mosques, visiting temples and visiting various religious festivals around the place. That is part of the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people in the west. It is a vital part of who they are and what they do. You cannot have multiculturalism, you cannot have a healthy multicultural society, without respect for freedom of religion. Take that away and you take away multiculturalism. You cannot have it both ways, and on this occasion it seems the government is attempting to do that.

I know that there is a conflict of ideals, but what I ask is that each side respect the other. I do not think that is an unreasonable thing. We have seen people over recent years who think that just because you have a different view you must be bad, just because you have a different view you must be destroyed. They will go after you. They will chase you into your home. They will chase you into your job. They will chase you everywhere. This is a nonsense; it has to stop. The churches have as much right and people of faith have as much right to be respected and

to have their rights respected as anybody else in the community. It is a basic sort of thing—just a respect, a common decency, that we would all expect ourselves. So I say to the entire community, as my daughter would say, and as she has said to me many times: take a chill pill. Before we start declaring war on each other, let us show the sort of respect that we would want shown to us.

This bill, sadly, is another attack on religious freedom. The time has come, and I implore religious leaders throughout the state to get involved. Do not wake up when it is too late. Get involved and stand up for your rights, for the rights of your faith and for the rights of the people in your congregations. You have a duty to do that, and I say that most sincerely. You have a duty to do that. I will be opposing this bill, and I urge other members to do likewise.

**COUNCIL | Constituency questions
03 December 2021**

Sunbury Road duplication

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My constituency question is to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, after I incorrectly addressed this question to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety thinking that Sunbury Road was in fact a road. But it is apparently transport infrastructure, so I will address it to the minister now. I am becoming more and more concerned by the day as developments move towards the duplication of some parts of Sunbury Road. I am deeply concerned that we are about to see a huge and monumental waste of money occur on this particular road. What the duplication will do is pick up one blockage and put it on another part of the road, and we are going to be spending millions of dollars to do that. I am asking the minister to reconsider this proposal and to ensure that it will not go ahead until such time as the Bulla bypass can be built.

Medical file privacy

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I wish to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Health. One of the most distressing things in what has been a very distressing year in many respects was the recent raid on a doctor's surgery in my electorate, in Sunshine. Dr Mark Hobart, as I have mentioned in the Parliament a couple of times now, is a much-respected and much-loved GP in Sunshine and has served the people of that area for 30 years. The raid by authorised officers—and I really do not like that term—on his surgery recently led to him losing his licence, I understand, but also perhaps more importantly the seizure of confidential medical files.

I have always been of the view that the relationship between a doctor and his or her patient is absolutely untouchable. It is beyond suspicion or anything else. And certainly one's medical records, anybody's medical records, should be the same. They should be kept from the public gaze and they should be between the doctor and the patient. What we have seen here is that confidential medical files have been seized by the authorised officers for reasons that we do not know and they have been taken to places that we do not know, and we do not know when they are coming back. This seems to me to be extraordinary and setting a precedent which is quite appalling.

It could happen now to any of us. It is something that I find intolerable and that I think any of us in a decent society would find intolerable. I have been surprised by the fact that the minister has not made any public statement on this, because I think it is his responsibility to give some

reassurance that this sort of thing is not going to be a regular occurrence. Clearly now, particularly given this week the passing of the pandemic legislation giving the Premier all power to do pretty much whatever he likes to whoever he likes whenever he wants to, that gives people a greater degree of anxiety about where we may be going with regard to a number of things.

But what I am concerned about tonight is what exactly the status is of these confidential medical files that have been seized. These are the medical files of my constituents, and I am appalled. I am appalled that they have been taken away from a doctor's surgery. What I am asking the minister to do as a matter of urgency—I am talking about tonight if he can—is return those confidential medical files to Dr Mark Hobart's office.



FINN IN THE HOUSE

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