

**From:** Moira Deeming  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 October 2021 8:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: An Email of Concern to Cr Moira Deeming

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well.

I saw and appreciate that you sent me the Facebook link to the article by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who I am in contact with over these issues already. [REDACTED] is one such person whom I have learned much from and with whom I have a good relationship, because [REDACTED] (like many other 'trans' people) is so reasonable.

Once again, I feel compelled to say that we are not as far apart in ideas as perhaps it might seem.

For example, I do not have a problem with adults engaging in any surgeries they like (who pays for these, and whose surgeries are prioritised is another matter). My focus in terms of the medicalised approach to dealing with gender dysphoria or transgender identities is actually focused on minors, because just like we should never operate on intersex infants and rob them of their choice once they are old enough to consent, I object to the use of the irreversible puberty blockers, cross sex hormones and such 'affirmation' surgeries being done on minors- for the same reason. [REDACTED] is a point of research interest in this matter, if you are keen to understand some of my reasons.

Just to clarify, it is not 'transpeople' per se that I find scary, but the transgender laws which erase biological sex based rights. I just believe that it is dangerous and inhumane to deny women and men and girls and boys have a right to their own sex based identity in law and culture.

In terms of looking after transpeople, which is of great importance to me- I think we are actually going about it the wrong way. From what I have read (and I read very widely) I am not convinced that these individuals are receiving best practice care when they are encouraged to reject and disassociate from their own physical bodies and given dangerous doses of opposite sex hormones and irreversible (and poorly regulated) surgeries (renowned for having very poor success rates and such high complication rates that it many surgeons are starting to claim that it is abusive and predatory even to perform in them). So I'm still open to learning about it all, but I have extreme concerns about how trans people might be being exploited rather than being helped. And the high suicide rates demands an urgent and thorough inquiry into all these matters- and yet when such research has been proposed, the 'trans lobby' has viciously attacked the researchers (who genuinely wanted to help) as transphobic! I think probably the most complicating factor is that biological reality can be objectively proven, whereas a transgender identity can only be claimed- it has never been proven to exist biologically 'in' the body, and I think much of the distrust stems from this.

The fear, loathing of one's own body, as well as the rejection and devaluing from others that women feel is equally as important as that experienced by people with a transgender identity feel, in my opinion. I don't elevate one set over the other, but currently the law does, as we've discussed.

Very happy to keep engaging with you, and any others that you think might be interested in talking to me- so long as they are civil- as you have been,

Kind regards,

**Cr Moira Deeming**

Watts Ward Councillor | **Melton City Council**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 10 October 2021 6:15 PM  
**To:** Moira Deeming <MoiraD@melton.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: An Email of Concern to Cr Moira Deeming

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Afternoon Moira,

Apologies it has taken me so long to respond to your email.

I understand the consideration in whether to respond to this email, and I want to clarify, my email was not sent with the intent as an 'accusation', but merely feeling compelled to express my concerns through a fair process as a citizen being represented by other citizens in my community.

I haven't done this often, so I was also quite nervous about using this platform and approach to express my concerns.

I wanted to say that I do appreciate you taking the time to respond, to fully articulate your position and provide me background on your experiences and position.

Of course, I understand and respect many of your areas of concern - around concern for women's safety in many spaces (public, jail, shelters) - and glad to hear you have trans people in your life you can have honest conversations with, that's so important.

I think on a few of your points, and viewpoints though, I will respectfully disagree. And that's ok. The focus on 'fear' that people can experience from a trans person is still such a big part of the challenge trans people face in feeling comfortable with themselves. I certainly do not seek to de-legitimize any woman's fear (as a woman I have felt fear many times), but we can only imagine the fear that many transpeople live with everyday - fear of understanding who they are, fear of being rejected, fear of society saying there's something wrong with them.

As for the choice to take puberty blockers, cross sex hormones and surgical *realignment* of their genitals, that really is an individuals choice, and at times can be the most empowering and reassuring action a trans person can take in becoming who they feel they've always been.

There are some really stark, and heartbreaking realities that don't seem to be getting better - trans people have some of the highest rates of suicide, self-harm and mental health conditions in Australia - [this is one of the best independant recent research](#) pieces on this point. And to me, that says we're still got so far to go as a society to support this group of people in our community.

I think on some points, and approaches, we will disagree. And as I said, that's ok. I just hope we can both keep seeking to have conversations and understand 'the others' point of view and experiences.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

On Mon, 27 Sept 2021 at 18:02, Moira Deeming <MoiraD@melton.vic.gov.au> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I wondered for a long time whether it would be productive to respond to your accusations, or whether you are just a person who wants to lash out and make accusations instead of build understanding.

I've decided that I'm happy to respond and see if a civil conversation develops.

First of all, I do appreciate the fact that you've written to me to tell me about your feelings on this issue, as I believe that direct dialogue is often the most helpful course of action in these very difficult issues.

Regarding your main concern, which is my position on trans issues- I must admit that I suspect you do not fully understand what my position actually is or what my goals are.

In the first instance, I have never attacked anyone, or any group of people. I have carefully laid out my reasons for disagreeing with many (but not all) trans-identifying people, as well as transgender lobby groups and most political parties about the merit and consequences of removing biological sex as class in law.

Disagreeing with people is not the same as 'attacking' people, and the impact that I hope to have is a restoration of sex based rights in law and a balanced approach to rights and responsibilities.

I and many LGB and even a few T people find the changes in law unacceptable, because without biological sex based classes in law all of women's hard won sex based rights are erased, homosexuality is delegitimised (because it is based on biological sex classes) and children are put at unnecessary risk of bodily and psychological harm if they begin to reject their own bodies.

Single sex facilities are vital for full female participation in public society.

When I repeatedly read news stories about women in rape shelters and jails, terrorised and raped by male transpeople who claim that their legal gender identity is more important than female bodily privacy and safety, that doesn't only break my heart, it drives me to speak up against it.

It really breaks my heart when young lesbians and gays who do not conform to gender stereotypes, are taught that they can achieve 'heterosexuality' by rejecting their biological sex. To me, that is gay conversion therapy and when it is followed up with irreversible and harmful puberty blockers, cross sex hormones and surgical destruction of their genitals- well now that doesn't just break my heart, that drives me to speak up against it.

Of course I do not condone any type of harassment, bullying, violence or degradation of trans-identifying people.- or indeed, any people.

The gender and sexuality of my children are not subjects that I'll be discussing as I'm sure you'll understand. However, you'll be pleased to know that I do have many close and dear people in my life that have been or are currently trans identifying, and we are all very honest with each other and very respectful of the rights that we each hold to speak freely on these issues. That mutual respect and tolerance is why we are able to maintain our friendships as well as our disagreements.

In answer to another of your questions, I seek to focus much of my energy on this issue because so many members of my community have asked me to bring their concerns about it to Council, and as I too share those concerns, I am very happy to do so. In fact I have not received as much correspondence asking me to speak up for sex based rights for any other issue, nor even half as much support for my work outside this issue.

Women and girls are uncomfortable and scared to go into public spaces and that is not acceptable, which is why I asked if we could furnish extra facilities for trans identifying people- as a civil compromise.

Further, I am more than willing and happy to work with people that disagree with me, my values and my life choices, and will be delighted to find that those same people are willing to extend the same courtesy to me.

Kind regards,

**Cr Moira Deeming**

Watts Ward Councillor | **Melton City Council**

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