



Evan Mulholland MP

LIBERAL MEMBER FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

Brigid Monagle
Victorian Public Sector Commissioner
2 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3004
Via email: info@vpvc.vic.gov.au

Thursday, 12 March 2026

Dear Commissioner,

As Victoria approaches the 2026 state election, I am writing to raise an important matter regarding multicultural events that are funded by the Victorian Government.

In recent times, multicultural events hosted and funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet have been conducted in a partisan manner. Except for one speech from the Leader of the Opposition at the Premier's Multicultural Gala, the Opposition have been excluded from official proceedings of all other events, including speaking opportunities at other events, and have received limited to no invitations for opposition members to attend. As was recently revealed [in The Age newspaper](#).

This stands in direct contrast to Labor Government MPs who all routinely receive invitations and can invite community members to events that are funded by the taxpayer. Examples include the Premier's Diwali, Shrove Tuesday Celebration of Diverse Christian Communities, Premier's Lunar New Year and the Victorian Iftar Dinner.

I also note that the invitation of multiple Labor candidates in 2022 to the Premier's Diwali caused controversy.

Events that are funded by the Victorian taxpayer should remain strictly nonpartisan. These occasions should be aimed at uniting communities and all their elected representatives, rather than being used as an opportunity to advance the political interests of the Labor Party in an election year.

Communications [released under Freedom of Information](#) reveal that once the Premier's Private Office became involved in planning for the Multicultural Dinner, the ticket allocation for Labor MPs, their staff and their guests increased from 67 to 190 tickets, whereas the Opposition was limited to one table.

One of the primary purposes of the VPSC is "ensuring the maintenance of an apolitical public sector" as one of its core objectives."

Therefore, I ask that, as a matter of urgency, you investigate what public sector resources have been used for partisan Labor Party events such as the ones I have highlighted above and advise whether any members of the Victorian Public Service have breached any VPSC codes of conduct at the direction of the Premier's Private Office.

Yours sincerely,

Evan Mulholland MP
Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region
Shadow Minister for Multicultural and Multifaith Affairs



Evan Mulholland MP, Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region

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