



13th of September, 2019

Hi there,

Here's an update of what I've been doing during the past fortnight in Parliament and across the electorate of Northern Metropolitan Region, and how you can get involved in community activities.



My Anti-trolling Bill referred to an inquiry

This week I secured an inquiry to stop hate-speech based on gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics. Race and religion are already protected, and have been for around 20 years.

The prevalence of vilification and hate speech in our community is getting beyond acceptable, and it's clear that our laws have not kept up with the rise of social media in

how we communicate.

For more on this story, you can see coverage from the [ABC](#), [The Age](#), [Herald Sun](#), [The Conversation](#), [The Australian](#) and [3AW](#).



Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse

I was extremely pleased to support the passage of a legislation, in Parliament this week, which will require religious clergy and spiritual leaders to report child sexual abuse. This brings them into line with many other professions, and removes the exemption previously given to religious confession.

The Bill also allows for survivors of institutional abuse to apply to the courts to overturn historical compensation payments, as well as strengthening protections of children. Read or watch my speech [here](#).



Speed limits on Nicholson St

I was recently contacted by a group called [Save Nicholson Village](#), asking for support with some of their campaigns. They have a [petition](#) calling on the Victorian Government to reduce the speed limit on Nicholson St to 40km/h, which would improve safety for shoppers accessing the northern end of the strip.

I asked the Minister for Roads and Minister for Road Safety and the TAC, Jaala Pulford, why there isn't a 40km/h limit in place between Scotchmer and Park streets. Read or watch my constituency question [here](#).



Reservoir traders

I recently met with a couple of Reservoir traders from the Broadway shopping strip. While they are completely supportive of the High Street level crossing removal, many of the businesses are reliant on the thoroughfare of traffic, which has been completely cut off by the closure of the intersection.

I asked the Government to consider how these businesses can be supported, ensuring that they are still in business when the intersection is re-opened in four months time. Read my question [here](#).



Firearms inquiry

The Legislative Council's Legal and Social Issues Committee, which I Chair, held a public hearing for an inquiry into firearms prohibition orders last week. The Committee is examining how effective current laws are in reducing the prevalence of illicit or illegally possessed firearms within the community, and how they can be strengthened.

Evidence was presented by [Victoria Police](#), the Department of Justice and Community Safety and the [Law Institute of Victoria](#).



Atherton gardens residents

Last week I met with the Atherton Gardens Residents Association to listen to their concerns over some recent developments. They are upset that the Government is making aesthetic improvements to the buildings without dealing with more pressing issues, such as broken lifts, lack of car parking for residents and more.

Changes to parking in the area have resulted in many fines for residents, with no ability to apply for permits. I will be discussing this with the Minister for Planning and Housing.



Medicinal cannabis driving laws

This week I introduced a Bill into Parliament for an act to amend the Road Safety Act 1986 to provide that prescription medicinal cannabis that does not impair driving is to be treated in the same manner as other prescription drugs.

This is the first step in the process of presenting a Bill, called the first reading, where the intention of the Bill is stated. The Bill gets released in full when it is second read, so stay tuned!

You can read my motion [here](#).

I hope you enjoy your weekend,

Fiona Patten MP