
From: Former Premier Ted Baillieu [formerpremier46@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, 13 March 2014 2:50 PM
To: Manjula O'Connor
Subject: Hawthorn / Petition tabling today + petitions into legislation/law background

Dear Manjula

The link to the Petition's tabling today follows:

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/assembly/tailed-documents/search-tailed-documents-database/details/3/4170>

Mr Baillieu (Hawthorn): I note the petition seeking to include coercive demands for dowry in the economic abuse provisions of family violence legislation. It was compiled by Dr Manjula O'Connor of Melbourne University. She is a champion for the rights of abused women, particularly Indian migrants. This is not an Indian community issue alone, but the issue of coercive demands for dowry is real. I have met many women she has supported. They have been pressured for dowry and have suffered domestic violence, depression, family breakdown and worse. I congratulate Dr O'Connor. I have joined her before to send a powerful message, and I do again. Violence against women is a crime. It is unacceptable. It must not be tolerated. Multicultural Victoria respects cultural diversity, but understanding the balance between cultural heritage and the human rights of women is critical. This petition and Dr O'Connor's work deserve careful consideration.

26 June 2014 , Page 2357

http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/daily-hansard/Assembly_2014/Assembly_Daily_Extract_Thursday_26_June_2014_from_Book_9.pdf