



21 September 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

Equality advocates express concerns about Whittlesea book ban plan

The Victorian Pride Lobby's Rainbow Local Government campaign is concerned about the stance held by a slate of candidates running in the upcoming Whittlesea City Council elections led by Aidan McLindon, former Deputy Leader of the far-right Freedom Party.

McLindon and his group of candidates are pushing for books containing information on sexuality to "be withdrawn" from public libraries. This blatant attempt to censor LGBTIQ+ content has sparked outrage from equality advocates.

"Our libraries must remain safe spaces for diverse ideas and beliefs where everyone is seen, heard, and valued," said Dr. Sean Mulcahy, co-lead of the Rainbow Local Government campaign.

"People have the right to choose which library books they read and borrow and which library events they attend—without interference."

This latest attack on LGBTIQ+ inclusion comes in the wake of a failed attempt by Cumberland City Council (NSW) to impose a similar book ban.

"Parents and children should be able to enjoy a welcoming and supportive environment in their local library—not fear censorship or exclusion," Dr. Mulcahy emphasised.

"Books help foster imagination and learning, and LGBTIQ+ books can help foster diversity, inclusion and acceptance.

"We must fiercely oppose any attempt to ban LGBTIQ+ books from public spaces."

The candidates aligned with Mr. McLindon's harmful agenda include:

- Richard Stockman (Bundoora)
- Edward Sukkar (Epping)
- Ursula van Bree (Ganbu Gulinj)
- Nicholas Hajichristou (Lalor)
- Rohit Taggar (Mernda)
- Maurice Abi Raed (Mill Park)
- Shashi Pal (North)
- Ross Lee (Painted Hills)
- Andrew Filippoulos (South Morang)
- Nicholas Brooks (Thomastown)

ENDS

About the Victorian Pride Lobby

The Victorian Pride Lobby is a community-based advocacy group that works towards equality, social justice and advancing human rights for the Victorian LGBTIQ+ community. Its Rainbow Local Government campaign aims to recruit and support LGBTIQ+ candidates and allies to increase diversity and champion change on LGBTIQ+ issues in local government.



Whittlesea City Council Elections **TIME TO PUT OUR COMMUNITY FIRST** **Aidan McLINDON**
Mayoral Nominee
Kirrip Ward

"I am proud to present the residents of Whittlesea City a stable team of experienced and courageous locals who will always put our community first. The cost of living is hurting everyone which is why it is so important to keep political parties out of our local council - we only answer to you. These key policies are what we have all agreed upon so you know exactly what you're voting for. No surprises, no new fees and charges, just a decent team of locals putting our community first. As it should be." - Aidan McLindon, Mayoral Nominee

OUR COMMUNITY INDEPENDENTS

 Andrew FILIPPOPOULOS South Morang Ward	 Richard STOCKMAN Bundoora Ward	 Nicholas HAJICHRISTOU Lalor Ward	 Ursula van BREE Ganbu Gulinj Ward	 Rohit TAGGAR Mernda Ward
 Ross LEE Painted Hills Ward	 Shashi PAL North Ward	 Edward SUKKAR Epping Ward	 Nicholas BROOKS Thomastown Ward	 Dr Maurice ABI RAAD Mill Park Ward

OUR 2024 - 2028 ACTION PLAN

1. Rates freeze - no increase for the full 4 year term. Time to cut waste.
2. The basics done brilliantly - safer local roads, decent sporting facilities, cleaner neighbourhoods.
3. We oppose the proposed Northern Incinerator. It does not belong in our city. Send Labor a clear message.
4. Child appropriate public spaces and libraries. Let kids be kids.
5. Keep party politics out of local council - it's expensive and creates infighting. Our city needs a fresh start.

Keep this page for when you receive your voting ballot in the mail. Authorised by A. McLindon PO Box 311, South Morang 3752



Our Whittlesea Council

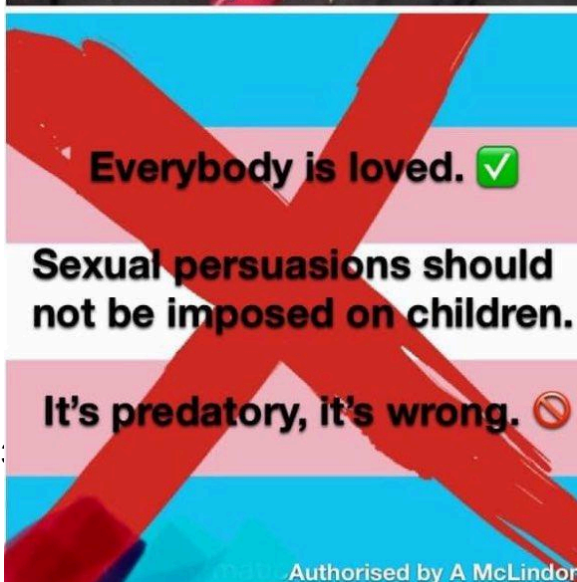
Aidan McLindon · 2h ·



Another 200 homes visited in the Kirrip Ward today. Great to see so much support from the community for the "Child Safe Libraries" policy.

I stand with our faith communities against the Labor Party who are inappropriately targeting and hyper-sexualising our children.

Time for us adults to stand up for our kids. Protect our children - vote Labor last.



"Keep our Libraries Safe"



Whittlesea Council Election Policy Announcement:

"I stand against the Labor Party in solidarity with the Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Greek Orthodox, Sikh, Buddhist and Agnostic communities who believe our public libraries should be a safe space for our children.

That all sexually motivated agendas and sexuality imagery and terminologies be withdrawn from these spaces as they are not appropriate for children".

Aidan McLindon