

National [Greens](#)

Greens dump new convenor over trans comments



By [Wendy Tuohy](#)

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KEY POINTS

- Newly elected convenor of the Victorian Greens, Linda Gale, has been ousted over statements she made in 2019 about trans issues.
- Victorian Greens leader, Samantha Ratnam, tweeted on Friday night that she had instigated the action.
- There will now be a new election for convenor. Gale, who is weighing up her options, has been urged not to run.

The newly elected convenor of the Victorian Greens, Linda Gale, is “shell shocked” after being ousted from the role over statements she made in 2019 about trans issues.

Gale was elected as convenor one week ago, triggering protest on social media from some members about a three-year-old internal discussion paper she co-authored, titled “Trans Exclusionary Rhetoric, Contending Views”.



Newly-elected convenor of the Victorian Greens, Linda Gale, has been dumped for statements on trans issues. INTERNET

Victorian Greens leader, Samantha Ratnam, tweeted on Friday night that she had instigated the action to have the election result set aside.

“I can now reveal that my action was successful and Linda Gale is no longer the Convenor of the Victorian Greens. There will now be a new election for convenor and I urge Linda to not re-contest the election,” Ratnam tweeted.

The decision was made by an administrative review panel the night before the state council meeting on Saturday.

Gale told *The Age* on Saturday that she was feeling “shell shocked”, as well as “a sense of betrayal” by some people who had previously expressed respect for her work in many Greens roles over 11 years. She is weighing up her options to contest a re-run election.

Gale’s paper was written in response to a paper by other Greens members, titled “Trans Exclusionary Rhetoric”.



Greens leader Samantha Ratnam instigated the action to oust Linda Gale. JASON SOUTH

Melbourne City Councillor and Greens member, Rohan Leppert, who on Thursday published a defence of the validity of the election and the choice of Gale, said that our democratic processes have been treated as though they're nothing and that it's perfectly legitimate to use a social media pre-on to attack the outcome of an election, she said. Leppert said the same Greens members who used social media to "slander" him as trans-exclusionary for expressing concern about "affirmation-only" medical treatment for children with gender dysphoria had used the "same public relations tactics to bring down Gale". She strongly denied that she was a transphobe and said "despite the experience of the last week, I do think the party is better than this".



Greens councillor Rohan Leppert wrote in defence of Gale and the party's democratic electoral process this week.

"The tactics chosen by Linda's detractors were straight out of the Trump playbook: [to claim that the election was illegitimate](#) and then let a social media pile-on ratchet up the pressure," he wrote.

Gale said "the allegations against me are not only untrue, but entirely unfair".

The New South Wales Greens this week suspended member [Anna Kerr, principal solicitor of the Feminist Legal Clinic](#) for her statements on trans issues made on Greens platforms, including emails to its Womens Working Group.

In a complaint signed by 11 Greens members, including MPs Abigail Boyd and Jenny Leong, Kerr was accused of having "inflicted direct harm towards other members and created unsafe spaces within our party".

Boyd told *The Age* Kerr had engaged in "hate speech", which Kerr denied, saying "nothing I have said could be considered hate speech". Kerr said vilification was "a very effective way of silencing dissent".

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