



DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

Media Release

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****image available****

POLITICS LAID BARE AT NSW PARLIAMENT

As part of its 2021 events program, the NSW Parliament will host a panel discussion in the famous “Bear Pit” on the challenges and complexities of changing your mind.

Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly Jonathan O’Dea MP said that while the chamber was better known for its adversarial debating style, this event would take on a different tone.

“It is a unique opportunity for the community to hear from current and former parliamentarians as well as leaders of organisations on a topic that impacts us all,” Mr O’Dea said.

President of the Legislative Council Matthew Mason-Cox MLC said the discussion will entertain as well as promote a greater understanding of our democracy and the way our parliamentary system works.

“That’s why we’ve called this annual event the ‘Bare Pit’. It promises to be a lively exchange of ideas on a topic to which most of us can relate.”

The Bare Pit 2021: The Power of Changing Your Mind is a partnership between The Ethics Centre and the Parliament of NSW.

The Ethics Centre Executive Director, Dr Simon Longstaff AO, said there are important ethical considerations surrounding changing your mind.

“Leaders and politicians are given very little leeway to alter their position in response to new information, further reflection or the advocacy of constituents,” Dr Longstaff said.

“Too often it is seized upon and derided as backsliding. We want to explore the resilience and reconciling of thought that goes on behind the scenes.”

The FREE lunchtime panel event on Tuesday 15 June will feature the following panellists:

- The Hon. Victor Dominello MP, Member for Ryde and Minister for Digital and Minister for Customer Service
- Mr David Shoebridge, Greens MLC
- The Hon. Carmel Tebbutt, CEO of NSW Mental Health Co-ordinating Council and former Deputy Premier of NSW
- John Brodgen AM, Chief Executive of Landcom and former Leader of the Opposition NSW
- Ms Danielle Wood, CEO Grattan Institute
- Antoinette Lattouf, Director, Media Diversity Australia and Senior Journalist, Network 10.

To register for the live-stream event (bookings essential) visit the event [Humanitix](#) page.

****Image available at the [link](#)*****