

# EDITORIAL EXCERPT: The bad Guys

By David Donovan

5 April 2018



**The Victorian pairing controversy confirms that conservatives really have only one principle — to win at whatever cost, writes managing editor [Dave Donovan](#).**

TIME AND AGAIN, we see the thirst for victory far outstrips conservatives’ oft-expressed concern for principles and conventions. You could say it is itself a long-standing tradition.

This tradition was again observed last week, on Easter Friday, in the Victorian Parliament.

There, the Upper House was sitting to discuss legislation to restructure fire services in the State, by replacing the [Metropolitan Fire Brigade](#) (MFB) with a new statewide authority, making the [Country Fire Authority](#) (CFA) a volunteer-only organisation. The CFA is a

strongly conservative organisation and so the change was bitterly opposed by the Coalition Opposition. The legislation had been scheduled for weeks and looked like being passed after a crossbench MP, [Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins](#), had fallen ill on Tuesday night. By convention, crossbench MPs are not granted pairs and nor did Australian Conservatives MP Dr Carling-Jenkins ask for one.

After [a marathon debate](#) was set to send the legislation into the public holiday, two Liberal MPs, [Bernie Finn](#) and [Craig Ondarchie](#) – after filibustering for hours – applied to the Government for pairs, citing strong religious objections to working on such a holy day. (Pairing is where absent government and opposition MPs cancel each other out to maintain the balance of the chamber.)

Is this legit?  
[pic.twitter.com/2skoZol7CN](https://pic.twitter.com/2skoZol7CN)

— Chris Walsh (@chriswalsh008)  
[March 30, 2018](#)

On 9.55am on 15 Feb 2018, the Victorian  
 College of Education (VCE) had the  
 pairs on the Government side of the  
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 as they wanted to be with the  
 President of the newly "over the  
 Good Friday that Jesus died".  
 @CraigOndarchie never accept  
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 to know that the cost of this  
 it is the best solution for every  
 the Christian party is the only



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records  
ption was justified and he would do it again:  
appeared.

*“The means were absolutely justified and I would do the same tomorrow.”*

Talk  
about  
trying  
to hide  
his lies.  
I bet  
his god  
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their tre

<https://t.co/R7XlhAYJKf>  
[pic.twitter.com/BmzEnggkpO](https://pic.twitter.com/BmzEnggkpO)

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MSM  
Watchdog (@MSMWatchdog2013)  
[March 30, 2018](#)