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EMAIL WEB manningham@leadernewspapers.com.au
 manninghamleader.com.au

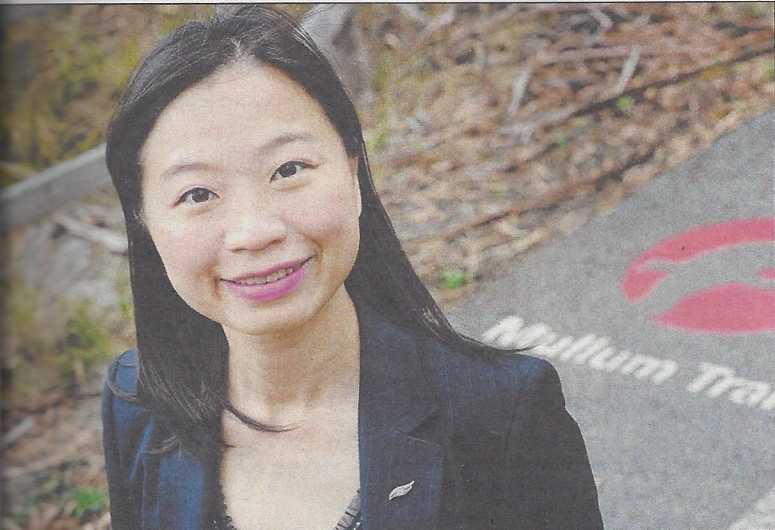
MAIL The Editor, Manningham Leader,
 1 Chapel St, Blackburn 3130

SMS
 0402 967 387

FAX
 (03) 9875 8344

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Jennifer Yang quits as mayor amid a storm of criticism.

We have a large Asian population in Manningham and I cringe when I hear racist comments.

Please make our Asian newcomers feel welcome and respected for their contribution to our communities.

CAROLYN GIOVANNETTI, email

Mayor concerns

MANNINGHAM mayor Jennifer Yang quit the top job after initially refusing to step down while campaigning for a Labor Senator role. Her resignation came after a barrage of online criticism, including these comments: **HEDGING** her bets.

If she misses out on the new position she will still have her old job waiting.

PETER, posted online

SEEMS to be a habit stepping down to further her political

career. Perhaps she should not bother with council elections? As far as I'm concerned any councillor who decides to enter state or federal politics while on council, does not really care about their job as councillor.

JOHN ANDON, Facebook

KEEP politics out of local government.

CARL, posted online

THE same situation existed last State Election in Monash with two Liberal and one Labor party member councillors standing for government.

None resigned in advance but all took leave of absence once the election was officially called.

Similarly at the previous Federal election, Monash had one councillor briefly take leave of absence until Kevin Rudd revoked his preselection whereupon he cancelled his leave and resumed his former role.

Monash Mayor Cr Stefanie

Perri's resignation to stand in the federal election is unusual but does set a good precedent.

I can imagine the reaction if I went to my boss and said I wanted paid leave to work on my application for a position with another company but, if I fluffed the interview, I would like the right to return to my current role as if nothing had happened.

MURRAY, posted online

THE honourable thing to do is to step aside from the position of mayor.

No matter what political party a councillor is from, if you get elected by the people to serve a four-year term at Manningham Council then that should be your first and only priority.

During this term, Cr Yang has run unsuccessfully as the Labor Candidate for state seat of Mt Waverley in the 2014 Victorian State Election, ran in the 2016 ALP preselection for the Federal Seat of Chisholm and now for the Senate.

Cr Yang needs to make it crystal clear that she is not misusing tax payers dollars and resources that are meant to be invested for the benefit of the Manningham municipality for her own vested interest.

It has been raised by many residents and small business owners that by her remaining as mayor, there is a perception that Manningham Council is not being bipartisan.

Local Government should be above party politics and deliver for the people - no matter how they vote or intend to vote.

Knowing that Cr Yang was interested in running for federal politics, she should not have put herself forward and accepted the

nomination of mayor late last year.

ANDREW ANANIEVSKI, Facebook

DO THE honourable thing step down.

You want it all: politics is about serving the community, they should not be about serving yourself!

MERILYN PHILLIPS, Facebook

GOOD on her

RITA HARIKA CHOUERI, Facebook

YES, she should stand down. That is the tradition.

MICHELLE, posted online

Safer walkways

FOR far too long, the consequence of poor infrastructure causing people to fall in the street has been ignored.

With funding from VicHealth, Victoria Walks commissioned Monash University Accident Research Centre to conduct a detailed study of falls while walking and the results are very worrying.

This research found trips and falls in the street send more than 5000 pedestrians to hospital in Victoria each year - even more than collisions with cars.

The consequences of falling can be devastating for older people in particular.

They are more fragile and take longer to recover.

The Victorian and Federal Governments need to start investing in making walking safer and supporting councils to improve footpath surfaces and road crossings.

DR BEN ROSSITER, executive officer, Victoria Walks

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