Media Statement

19 December 2025

Gun safety advocates commend Premier Minns for taking decisive action on gun reforms in the wake to the Bondi terror attack

The Australian Gun Safety Alliance has today commended Premier Minns for the Government's swift and decisive action to close critical gaps in NSW gun safety laws.

Convenor of the Australian Gun Safety Alliance Stephen Bendle said he welcomes the Government's announcement today that it will introduce new laws to strengthen firearm safety in NSW.

"We support any reforms that see a reduction in the number of guns in the community," Stephen said.

"The reforms announced by the government today – which we implore the NSW Parliament to pass without delay – will help achieve that goal."

"Australia's world-renowned firearm framework, established after the Port Arthur tragedy in 1996, has saved countless lives and demonstrated that strong, evidence-based gun laws work.

"However, nearly three decades on, our gun laws have not kept pace with changes in firearm technology, shifts in ownership patterns, and unrelenting pressure from special interest groups.

"Firearm ownership in Australia is a privilege, not a right, and it must be justified by genuine public-interest need.

"Authorities have confirmed that the weapons used in the Bondi attack were legally owned, exposing serious gaps in licensing, firearm categorisation, storage, oversight and national coordination.

"The Government's reforms will work to close these critical gaps and help make the NSW community safer from gun violence.

The Australian Gun Safety Alliance is a broad coalition of voices representing the interests of the community in ensuring that we maintain vigilance on issues of gun safety. www.gunsafetyalliance.org.au

The Australian Gun Safety Alliance also supports the Federal government's announcement today of a national gun buy-back scheme.

"It is clear that we must reduce the number of firearms circulating in the community and rigorously tighten regulatory safeguards," Stephen said.

Port Arthur gun safety advocate Walter Mikac message to the community following the devastating Bondi terror attack.

"This attack was fuelled by hate, but guns allowed that hate to be weaponised as terror." – Walter Mikac AM

Walter Mikac, founder of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation – whose wife Nanette and daughters Alannah and Madeline were killed at Port Arthur in 1996 – has today commended Premier Minns for his leadership and decisive action to reduce the number of guns in the community through a national buy-back scheme.

"I extend my deepest condolences to the victims and their families and loved ones.

"This act of terror – in which Jewish people were specifically targeted – is a devastating reminder that Australians should be able to gather and celebrate without fear of gun violence," Walter said.

"I am pleased that the Government has listened to the community and to our gun safety experts and reconfirmed community safety as the central tenet of our gun laws.

"The horrific terror attack at Bondi Beach last Sunday is a devastating reminder that strong gun laws must evolve to address new risks – not be weakened or undermined," Walter said.

"This attack was fuelled by hate, but guns allowed that hate to be weaponised as terror."

"Firearm ownership is a privilege, not a right. After Port Arthur, Australia chose community safety over ideology, and that commitment remains as critical today as ever.

"Australians, rightly, expect gun laws to keep them safe," Walter said.

"This has been a gruelling week. I am devastated for the families of the victims and for the survivors who must now make sense of this terrible tragedy.

"I stand in love and solidarity with Australia's Jewish community, the people of Bondi, and with all Australians in the wake of this unspeakable act of violence and terror.

"My heart aches for the many lives lost, including the life of beautiful 10-year-old Matilda, and to their families, on what should have been a day of joy, community and celebration.

“I also pay tribute to the NSW Police, Paramedics. Lifesavers, and many bystanders who rushed into to help despite the dangers to themselves, and for the professionalism and care of the medical teams at hospitals across Sydney caring the injured.

“I know all too well the heavy weight of grief and the pain of loss at the hands of violence and hate – and I will continue to advocate for Australia’s gun laws to be responsible, safe and strong so that no other family has to face such tragedy.

“All Australians must now come together to build a future where everyone in our community is safe from violence and hate.”

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About the Alannah & Madeline Foundation
The Alannah & Madeline Foundation was founded 28 years ago by Walter Mikac AM, and a small group of volunteers in memory of Walter’s young daughters Alannah and Madeline, aged just six and three, who tragically lost their lives along with their mother and 32 others at Port Arthur in Tasmania on 28 April 1996. The Foundation was established with the belief that “all children and young people should be able to live a happy and safe life, free from violence and trauma.” Our mission continues today through our Care, Prevention and Advocacy programs – we fight for their right to be safe, so their future is strong. www.alannahandmadeline.org.au

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The Australian Gun Safety Alliance is a broad coalition of voices representing the interests of the community to ensure we remain vigilant on gun safety. www.gunsafetyalliance.org.au