Foundation statement following the tragedy at Bondi Beach

We at the Alannah & Madeline Foundation are devastated by the horrific act of violence at Bondi Beach last night. Our hearts go out to the victims, their families, the first responders, and to the Jewish community.

We stand in grief, love and solidarity with Australia's Jewish community today and with all Australians in the wake of this unspeakable act of violence and terror.

It is deeply distressing that hatred and violence have taken so many lives, including the life of a child, on what should have been a day of joy, community, and celebration.

We also honour and acknowledged the immense courage of the NSW Police and Paramedics, and the bystanders who helped keep people safe despite extreme risk to their own safety.

Frightening and highly publicised events like this can be distressing for children and young people. We encourage parents, carers and educators to support children through these moments by creating a safe space, listening to their concerns, reassuring them of their safety, and helping them make sense of what they may be seeing or hearing in an age-appropriate way.

You can also reach out to the following organisations for support:

- Kids Helpline – 1800 551 800
- Lifeline – 13 11 14
- 13 YARN – 13 92 76
- Grief Australia – 1300 554 786

While the details of this tragedy are still being investigated, it is a sobering reminder of the critical need for vigilance in upholding our gun laws. As an organisation founded after the Port Arthur tragedy and dedicated to keeping children safe from violence, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to advocating for a nation where no family has to endure this unimaginable pain.

Founding Patron of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation, Walter Mikac AM said:

"Violence has no place in our society. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to all of the victims, survivors and their families, and stand in support and solidarity with the Jewish community.

After Port Arthur, Australia made a collective commitment to put community safety first, and that commitment remains as important today as ever.

"This is a horrific reminder of the need to stay vigilant against hate and violence, and of the importance of ensuring our gun laws continue to protect the safety of all Australians."

Australian Gun Safety Alliance convenor and Alannah & Madeline Foundation advocacy advisor Stephen Bendle welcomed comments from NSW Premier Chris Minns suggesting that stronger – not weaker – firearm safety reforms would follow.

"The Alannah & Madeline Foundation welcomes and will support any progress made by governments at all levels to ensure Australia's gun laws are safe, responsible and strong. We will continue to build a future where children – and all people – are free from gun-related violence."

For further information please contact:
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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

About the Australian Gun Safety Alliance
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