



Thursday, 7 July 2016

Andrew Barr
Chief Minister ACT
GPO Box 1020,
Canberra, ACT 2601

Dear Andrew,

I write on behalf of Australian Quakers to urge you to maintain and strengthen the current gun control provisions when COAG reviews the National Firearms Agreement. We believe that the Agreement, made after the Port Arthur massacre in 1996, and the National Handgun Control Agreement on 2002, have helped create a safer environment for our people and reduced the occurrence of gun violence.

We are concerned that in recent years, steps taken by some States and Territories have weakened the impact of the current laws – by allowing shooting in national parks, fewer police checks for gun ownership, shooting in gun clubs without a licence, and wider access to rapid-style firearms. The Federal Government has allowed the importation of a six-shot Adler lever-action firearm. This trend stands in contrast to the policies being adopted by all governments to curb domestic violence.

We urge you to give priority to the prevention of gun violence in your decisions about gun control measures. In particular, semi-automatic handguns (similar to those used in recent shootings in America) need to be made illegal. We also ask that any revisions of the National Firearms Agreement be consistent with the United Nations Protocol on Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms, signed by Australia in 2002 but not yet ratified.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian Robertson".

Julian Robertson
Presiding Clerk
The Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers) in Australia

Australia Yearly Meeting

The Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers) in Australia Inc.
Incorporated in the ACT
119 Devonshire Street
Surry Hills 2010
Australia

Tel
Fax
Email ymsecretary@quakers.org.au
Web www.quakers.org.au
ABN 16 036 715 933