



FRIDAY 9 JANUARY 2026

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### JOINT MEETING OF POLICE MINISTERS COUNCIL & STANDING COUNCIL OF ATTORNEYS-GENERAL

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The extraordinary joint meeting of the Police Ministers Council (PMC) and Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG) was held virtually on Friday 9 January 2026. The meeting was co-chaired by the Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Minister for Cyber Security, Minister for the Arts, and the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Attorney-General. All jurisdictions were represented by Ministers, Attorneys-General or Senior Officials.

This meeting is being held following the horrific antisemitic terrorist attack on Australia's Jewish community in Bondi on 14 December 2025. All jurisdictions agreed that keeping Australians safe is the primary responsibility of government and resolved to work co-operatively to combat antisemitism in our community, to reduce the spread of hate speech and promotion of violence, and to promote social cohesion.

The Commonwealth has also announced a Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion in response to the Bondi terrorist attack, and the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister, has written to States and Territories inviting them to join the Royal Commission.

#### NATIONAL FIREARMS AGREEMENT – REFORM OPTIONS

Participants:

- (a) **discussed** proposals to strengthen the National Firearms Agreement.
- (b) **agreed** to progress options for consideration at National Cabinet, noting Police Ministers have not endorsed the proposals as final as there remains consultation and cabinet approvals required, and subject to further consideration by the Senior Officials Group, noting that the Northern Territory did not agree to progress all proposals.
- (c) **agreed** options to accelerate the National Firearms Register for consideration at National Cabinet.

#### COMMONWEALTH INTELLIGENCE SHARING MODEL FOR FIREARMS LICENCE DECISIONS

Participants:

- (a) **agreed** to the Senior Officials Group will do further work on a Commonwealth background checking framework, to allow the additional use of intelligence held by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and Australian Criminal Intelligence

Commission to underpin firearms licensing decisions, to provide to National Cabinet for consideration.

## NATIONAL GUN BUYBACK SCHEME

Participants:

- (a) **discussed** options to implement a National Gun Buyback Scheme.

## STRENGTHENING IMPORT CONTROLS

Participants:

- (a) **noted** the planned reforms to *the Customs Act 1901* and associated Customs Regulations to strengthen import controls for firearms and related goods.

## ACTIONS TO ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM

Participants:

- (a) **noted** an update from the Australian Government about the establishment of a Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion.
- (b) **condemned** in the strongest terms all acts of antisemitism and violence.
- (c) **shared** updates on new and existing measures to address antisemitism in each jurisdiction.
- (d) **agreed** to invite the Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism and the eSafety Commissioner to attend the next meeting of the Standing Council of Attorneys-General to discuss their work on online safety measures to address antisemitism.
- (e) **agreed to** convene a senior officials meeting to consider options for working with the Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism and the eSafety Commissioner on online safety measures to address antisemitism.

## HATE CRIME OFFENCES

Participants:

- (a) **noted** an update from the Australian Government on a comprehensive package of legislative reforms to expand and strengthen Commonwealth criminal offences to address the spread of hate and extremism.
- (b) **noted** the prevalence of hate speech on social media and online platforms and the need for a national approach having regard to the borderless nature of the online environment and the complexities associated with Australia's constitutional framework.
- (c) **agreed** to convene Commonwealth, state and territory senior officials, in collaboration with the office of the e-Safety commissioner, to discuss the existing regulatory framework to prevent and mitigate hate speech on social media and online platforms.