

MEDIA STATEMENT

21 January 2026

QUOTES ATTRIBUTABLE TO DR SOPHIE SCAMPS MP

It is great news for Australians that in passing the new national gun laws the Government has agreed to establish a **National Firearms Safety Council** akin to the one I proposed in my amendment to the bill. A National Firearms Safety Council is based on the work of the **National Gun Safety Alliance** and would ensure a public health and safety lens is applied to gun control in Australia.

“In the wake of the Bondi terror attack, like many Australians I was shocked to learn that the powerful, rapid-fire guns used in the attack were legally owned and that firearm ownership in Australia has significantly increased, not decreased, since Port Arthur - especially in urban areas.

“Over the past 30 years the powerful gun lobby in Australia has worked relentlessly to erode our guns laws. It's time to put Australians' safety first again and the Firearms Safety Council will do that”

“Whilst strong gun laws are critical to preventing future atrocities in this country, we can't forget that they are also crucial to the prevention of deaths from domestic violence, suicide and accidents.

Whilst world leading 30 years ago, our gun laws have not kept pace with changes in firearm technology, patterns of ownership, or emerging risk factors.

Deregulatory approaches of states and territories drifted apart, and our gun laws are only as strong as the weakest jurisdiction.

A National Firearms Safety Council is needed to provide national oversight and evidence-based advice to government, free from vested interests, so that our gun laws remain fit for purpose in protecting Australians now and into the future.

The Government has agreed to establish the Council, and now it must ensure that it is not stacked with gun lobby interests. Unless it is genuinely independent, evidence based, and driven by principles of public health and safety, our laws will again undoubtedly fail us in the future.

ENDS

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