



Thursday, 7 July 2016

Malcolm Turnbull, MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

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". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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

**Australia Yearly Meeting**

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