

The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

April 23 2018

Re: Proposed Firearms Advisory Council

Dear Mr Turnbull

The Australasian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN) is the peak Australasian body advocating for injury prevention and safety promotion, and represents injury researchers, policy makers and practitioners across Australia and New Zealand.

As the President, I am writing to you to note our very grave concern about reports that the Minister for Home Security, Peter Dutton, is proposing a “firearms advisory council” to allow gun importers to review proposed changes to firearm regulations for “appropriateness and intent”. I am also supported by my colleagues from a range of organisations listed below.

We are extremely concerned about this proposal, as allowing any organisation with a vested interest to contribute to policy development is dangerous. This is particularly salient when there is currently little involvement in the process from majority stakeholders, such as public health, suicide prevention and domestic violence prevention groups.

We note that the Australian people are very proud of our strong gun control laws and will not tolerate any watering down of these.

In 2015 The AIPN was a signatory (Via Prof Ivers) on an open letter to the Australian justice minister Michael Keenan about the consultation process for the review of the National Firearms Agreement. Again, our concern was related to the disproportionate access of industry to the Government, particularly around the review of the National Firearms Agreement.

We strongly encourage the Australian Government to protect our strong and appropriate gun laws from being watered down, for example as has been suggested will occur in Tasmania. We urge you to continue to ensure policy and regulatory responses are not directed or influenced by industries that relate to profit and not public good, and that you maintain oversight of any state based legislative changes.

Australia should be seen as a world leader in gun control, regulation and safety. We implore you to prioritise the safety of our people over firearm lobbyists.

Sincerely,



Professor Rebecca Ivers
President
The Australasian Injury Prevention Network



Peter Crowley
Chair
Victorian Safe Communities Network



Australian Safe
Communities
Foundation

Deborah Costello
Chair
Australian Safe Communities Foundation



Dr John Crozier
Trauma Chair
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons



Public Health Association
AUSTRALIA

Associate Professor Richard Franklin
Convenor
PHAA Injury Prevention Special Interest
group

