

## NSW government to overhaul race hate laws after Parramatta shooting

ANTHONY KLAN THE AUSTRALIAN 2:46PM October 19, 2015

Words can be “dangerous weapons” used by hate preachers and violent extremists, and the recent attack in Sydney’s Parramatta is evidence of the need to overhaul racial vilification laws, the NSW government says.

State attorney-general Gabrielle Upton said planned changes to hate laws were necessary to “disarm” hate preachers and to “safeguard our inclusive, pluralist and harmonious community”.

The NSW government has announced it plans to toughen racial vilification laws, under section 20D of the Racial Discrimination Act, and implement most of the recommendations made by a 2013 parliamentary committee into the matter.

“Recent events have reinforced the necessity of being vigilant to and guarding against the spread of racial vilification,” Ms Upton said.

“We cannot allow violent race hate speech to fan flames of division and tear our community part.”

Ms Upton said after “extensive consultation” it would release an exposure bill in January next year, and introduce legislation in the 2016 budget session.

The government has long come under pressure to bolster its race hate laws.

Since the current laws were enacted in 1989 the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board has referred 30 cases to the DPP, but it has not prosecuted one of those cases.

The laws came under the spotlight most recently after a sermon emerged in March this year of the Australian spiritual head of Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir – Ismail al-Wahwah - calling on Muslims to “rid” the world of “Jewish hidden evil”, among other slurs.

The issue was reported by NSW Jewish umbrella group the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies. Subsequently NSW anti-discrimination board president Stephan Kerkyasharian determined a “serious breach” of race-hate laws had occurred, but police and the DPP took no action, citing weakness in the law.

Two weeks ago, six ethnic and cultural groups, including key representatives of the Indian, Greek and Chinese communities, joined the NSW board of deputies in calling for the laws to be strengthened.

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies president Jeremy Spinak said the group welcomed the government’s move to tighten the laws.

“There is an important need to legislate and educate effectively against incitement to racist violence, racial harassment and intentional promotion of racial hatred,” Mr Spinak said.

In response to the claims Mr al-Wahwah had acted inappropriately in his speech uploaded in March, Hizb ut-Tahrir said the comments had been made ‘in 2004 when the army of Israel was launching a brutal war against the people of Gaza’.

FROM THE HOMEPAGE

---

### MidEast travel advice reviewed ♦

GREG BROWN

Government reviews advice on travel to the Middle East after Donald Trump’s decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.



### China fires up diplomatic row ♦

PRIMROSE RIORDAN, SIMON BENSON, ROWAN CALLICK

The Chinese government has launched a full frontal attack on the Australian media, politicians and senior bureaucrats.



## Aussies deliver ultimate sledge

English journalist and cricket lover Piers Morgan has been dealt the perfect get square after his constant sledging in the second Test.



## On a fiery highway to hell

Wildfires are raging in Southern California, forcing tens of thousands to evacuate and threatening multimillion-dollar homes.



## PM seeks more scalps

DAVID CROWE

Malcolm Turnbull is ramping up pressure on Bill Shorten over the citizenship scandal after Labor staged a stunning backdown.



## Dastyari hounded defence

OLIVIA CAISLEY

Sam Dastyari hounded senior defence officials with more than 115 questions about Chinese interests since 2013.



## Trump 'opens gates of hell'

CAMERON STEWART

Middle East leaders slam Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as capital of Israel, Palestians warn of 'day of rage'.



## Chance PM might hang on yet

NIKI SAVVA

The Prime Minister's critics in the Coalition have lost traction and Bill Shorten has enough problems of his own to keep him busy.



A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collect information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. This is also known as Online Behavioural Advertising. You can [find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out here](#)

[^ Back to top](#)



The Australian app

The Australian app

Terms of Use

Contact Us

About Us

Editorial Code of conduct

Help

About The Australian

Standards of Practice

Contact Us info

Advertise with us

Subscription terms

Photo Sales

Our journalists

Group Subscription Terms

News Archive

Subscribe

Accessibility

The Australian Plus member benefits

Privacy Policy

Sign up to Newsletters

Relevant Ads Opt-out

Manage Your Newsletters

Cookie Policy