

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 550

Petition Sponsored by: Jeff Bourman

Directed to: Minister for Police

Tabled on: Tuesday, 18 June 2024

Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council that there is a need to change and or amend the Private Security Act 2004, Control of Weapons Act 1990 and Control of Weapons Regulations 2021 to allow unarmed security and crowd controllers access to certain non-lethal weapons and protective clothing, including OC sprays, batons, handcuffs and stab vests.

In light of the Bondi Junction mass stabbings in Sydney involving an unarmed security guard being killed alongside six people and an infant and other people being seriously injured, guards should have access to non-lethal weapons and protective clothing to avoid or minimise the loss of life.

Acts and regulations need to be changed and amended to allow security guards to receive adequate training and use of these types of equipment as part of CPP20218 Certificate II in Security Operations (Unarmed Guard/Crowd Controller) in Victoria. The certificate should allow guards in high populous settings such as shopping centres, Services Australia offices, festivals and hospitals access to protective clothing and non-lethal weapons in order to be able to safely subdue and arrest an offender if an attack happens in that setting.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to amend the Private Security Act 2004, Control of Weapons Act 1990 and Control of Weapons Regulations 2021 to allow unarmed security and crowd controllers access to certain non-lethal weapons and protective clothing.

Reply:

The recent tragedies in NSW have been distressing for our community and my thoughts are with all who have been affected by these events. These incidents have also highlighted the role private security workers play in protecting our community.

Licensed security guards and bodyguards are permitted to carry controlled weapons, including extendable batons and body armour in the course of their lawful employment.

Victoria Police continue to conduct operations in shopping centres, and areas attracting crowds of people, to reassure the community and deter any threatening or offending behaviour.

The Victorian Government is committed to preventing violence in the community and has recently announced changes to the Control of Weapons Act 1990 which will allow Victoria Police to exercise their current significant powers to conduct planned and unplanned weapons searches more easily, for longer periods and in expanded circumstances, to keep our community safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. Carbines', written in a cursive style.

Hon Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Police
Minister for Crime Prevention
Minister for Racing