

**Submission
No 101**

MEASURES TO PROHIBIT SLOGANS THAT INCITE HATRED

Organisation: We Australians Are Creative Inc

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We Australians Are Creative Incorporated

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Submission to the NSW Parliament Committee on Law and Safety NSW Parliament

Inquiry into Measures to Prohibit Slogans that Incite Hatred

Submitted by: WAACI - We Australians Are Creative Incorporated

Introduction: About WAACI and Our Commitment to Peace and Harmony

WAACI – We Australians Are Creative Incorporated is an Australian organisation dedicated to networking and empowering the creative Australian diaspora. WAACI operates on the core belief that creativity has no boundaries, limitations, nationalities, religions, colour, racial differences, or any other barriers that humans erect around themselves.

Creativity is a gift to humanity. It enables individuals and communities to express joy, sorrow, reflection, protest, and hope in peaceful and constructive ways. Through creativity, societies find non-violent methods to process disagreement, address injustice, and strengthen mutual understanding.

WAACI actively works to promote peace, harmony, and community cohesion through creative engagement. The organisation arranges creative events and creative networking activities across poetry, music, and drama. WAACI has produced short films and released multiple music audio and video albums focused on community social cohesion, including *Dooriyan*, *Sandesh*, and *Rahat*.

In addition, WAACI has organised several events that brought together creative artists from diverse cultural, ethnic, and social backgrounds as part of its Peace and Harmony initiatives. These activities are designed to foster dialogue, shared experiences, and respectful coexistence across communities.

WAACI makes this submission in response to the NSW Parliament Committee on Law and Safety's inquiry into measures to prohibit slogans that intimidate communities and instil fear of violence. Our submission offers a creative, preventative, and community-focused perspective aligned with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Context and Relevance to the Inquiry

New South Wales is one of the most culturally diverse societies in the world. This diversity is a significant strength, but it also requires careful stewardship. Global conflicts, polarising narratives, and hostile slogans can be imported into local contexts, creating fear, intimidation, and fractured community relationships.

WAACI recognises the Committee's responsibility to examine the impact of slogans that threaten community cohesion, the need to protect communities from hatred and intimidation, the importance of democratic freedoms, and the role of existing and proposed legal measures.

While legal frameworks are essential, WAACI submits that long-term peace and harmony are best achieved when regulation is complemented by strong investment in creative, cultural, and community-led approaches that prevent harm before it escalates.

Statement 1: Creativity as a Foundation for Social Harmony

Creativity is a peaceful and unifying force that strengthens social harmony in multicultural societies. Creative expression allows communities to engage with difference without fear, intimidation, or hostility.

Statement 2: Creativity Beyond Identity, Ideology, and Conflict

Creativity transcends nationality, religion, race, and political ideology. WAACI promotes inclusive creative engagement that reinforces shared humanity and reduces the impact of divisive slogans.

Statement 3: Creative Expression as a Non-Violent Alternative to Harmful Language

Art, poetry, music, drama, film, and storytelling provide constructive alternatives to language that may incite hatred or fear. Creative expression enables disagreement without escalation.

Statement 4: The Creative Australian Diaspora and Community Safety

The creative Australian diaspora plays a vital role in shaping narratives that promote peace rather than division. WAACI's networking activities ensure global issues are addressed responsibly within Australian society.

Statement 5: Creativity as a Preventive Measure Against Polarisation

Social alienation increases vulnerability to inflammatory language. Creative participation builds belonging and trust, reducing the appeal of intimidating slogans.

Statement 6: Youth Creativity and Early Prevention

Young people are particularly exposed to online amplification of hostile language. Creative engagement builds resilience, critical thinking, and peaceful civic participation.

Statement 7: Creative Dialogue and Democratic Participation

Creativity supports freedom of expression while maintaining respect and non-violence. Peaceful, creative dialogue strengthens democracy without undermining safety.

Statement 8: Art and Culture as De-Escalation Tools

Creative programs can calm tensions during periods of heightened social anxiety. Cultural engagement promotes empathy and shared understanding.

Statement 9: Responsible Creative Storytelling in Digital Spaces

Online platforms amplify language rapidly. Ethical creative storytelling counters misinformation, fear-based narratives, and intimidation.

Statement 10: Creative Organisations as Partners in Social Cohesion

Creative organisations are trusted community actors with deep grassroots reach. Their involvement allows early intervention when tensions arise.

Statement 11: Learning from International Creative Approaches

International experience demonstrates that cultural and creative initiatives can complement legal measures in promoting social cohesion.

Statement 12: Balancing Regulation with Creative Freedom

Freedom of expression and community safety are complementary. Creativity flourishes within boundaries that reject hatred, intimidation, and violence.

Statement 13: Creativity Supporting Existing Legal Frameworks

Creative initiatives reinforce existing laws by shaping positive social norms and reducing reliance on punitive responses alone.

Statement 14: A Creative Vision for Peaceful Coexistence in NSW

WAACI envisions a New South Wales where creativity is recognised as a strategic asset for peace, harmony, and resilience in a diverse society.

Conclusions

WAACI concludes that slogans which intimidate communities and instil fear pose a real threat to social cohesion and community safety in New South Wales. However, lasting peace cannot be achieved through restriction or enforcement alone.

Creative engagement provides a peaceful pathway for expression, dialogue, and emotional processing. WAACI's experience delivering creative events, films, and music projects demonstrates that creativity reduces division, builds empathy, and strengthens community trust.

This inquiry presents NSW with an opportunity to lead by combining proportionate legal measures with meaningful investment in creative and cultural solutions that prevent harm at its roots.

Recommendations**Recommendation 1 - Recognition and Partnership with Creative Organisations**

That the NSW Government formally recognise creative and cultural organisations as key partners in promoting social cohesion, peace, harmony, and community safety across multicultural New South Wales.

Recommendation 2 - Targeted and Sustained Funding for Creative Cohesion Work

That the NSW Government establish and maintain targeted, sustainable funding streams for creative organisations delivering programs, events, and productions that demonstrably foster unity, inclusion, and the prevention of social division.

Recommendation 3 - Creative Alternatives to Harmful and Intimidating Expression

The NSW Government supports and resources creative platforms and initiatives that provide peaceful, non-intimidating alternatives for political, social, and cultural expression, reducing reliance on fear-based or hostile language.

Recommendation 4 - Youth Creativity, Media Literacy, and Civic Engagement

That the NSW Government prioritise investment in youth-focused programs that integrate creativity, media and digital literacy, and peaceful civic engagement, particularly to address online polarisation and the amplification of harmful narratives.

Recommendation 5 - Integrated Leadership, Grants, and Policy Alignment

That the NSW Government ensure regulatory and legal measures addressing intimidation and hatred are complemented by creative, educational, and cultural initiatives, with community grants prioritising peace, inclusion, cross-cultural collaboration, and clear public leadership rejecting intimidation, hatred, and the instillation of fear.

With best regards,
We Australians Are Creative Inc.



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Creativity has no boundaries, limitations, nationalities, religions, colour or racial differences or any other barriers that humans erect around themselves. Creativity is a gift to humanity in expressing the feelings of joy and sorrow in our society. We share and network creativity-WAACI -We Australians Are Creative Incorporated.