

1625

## DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Prime Minister  
(for signature)

L71460562

### Letters to Port Arthur victims and next of kin

#### Issue

Letters for your signature to all the next of kin of those killed at Port Arthur and to those injured.

#### Discussion

Attached are 51 letters for your signature - 31 to next of kin (two of whom are also injured victims), 18 to other injured victims and two to close relatives who have written to you. All of them except for six are identical letters, the terms of which you have already approved and which we have updated to include reference to the Commonwealth contributions to reconstruction of the visitor centre and counselling services. The information about next of kin and injured victims was supplied by the Tasmanian Premier's Office (a copy is attached).

The six letters which vary slightly are:

- Mr Walter Mikac (wife and two daughters killed) - to refer to your telephone conversation
- Mr Francis Gaylard (sister killed) - to refer to his telephone call to this Department opposing gun controls
- Mr John Sharp (father, uncle and godfather killed) - to refer to his letter of support to you
- Mesdames Terri and Helen Sharp (father, uncle and godfather killed) - to refer to their letter of support to you
- Mr John and Mrs Gaye Fidler (both injured) - to refer to their letter of support to you
- Mr Simon and Mrs Susan Williams (both injured) - to refer to Susan's employment in this Department.

#### Recommendation

That you sign the attached letters.



David Ritchie  
Acting First Assistant Secretary  
International Division

Contact officer: Cliff Armitage  
Phone: 2715703

25 June 1996



- 2 JUL 1996

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

Mr Simon and Mrs Susan Williams  
c/- Canadian High Commission  
Commonwealth Avenue  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr and Mrs Williams

I do not wish to intrude on what must be a difficult period for you following the sad events at Port Arthur. But I thought that I would write personally to all who were injured or next of kin to those killed, to let you know what actions my Government has taken in the wake of that tragic occurrence.

In the twenty-two years I have been in politics I have not experienced any other event which has so shocked the community and galvanised the political leadership of this country. It has brought together the major political parties at all levels of government with a determination to achieve historic and permanent change in the way our society approaches the possession and use of dangerous firearms.

We resolved as a united community to halt any slide towards an American-style 'gun culture' and to send a message that violence as a method for resolving problems, particularly through the use of firearms, is unacceptable and un-Australian.

I have enclosed some information summarising the gun control measures agreed by the Commonwealth and the States and Territories. The measures are far reaching, aimed at achieving the greatest reduction of firearms ever contemplated in this or other countries. I remain committed to implementation of these measures to the fullest extent possible.

I regret that many people who have never done anything wrong in their lives will be inconvenienced by the new laws, but this is ultimately a small price to pay for a community that feels, and is, more secure.

Commonwealth Ministers are investigating the portrayal of violence in the media, with a view to recommending appropriate measures. I cannot pre-empt what conclusions they will come to but I have personal concerns at the diet of repetitive violence that vulnerable persons in our society can be exposed to. Commonwealth Ministers, as well as Police Ministers, are also examining whether specific health or behavioural conditions may indicate an increased risk of an individual causing harm to themselves or others, particularly in relation to gun ownership, and the need for appropriate notification procedures to authorities.

The Commonwealth will be raising around \$500 million through a one-off increase in the Medicare levy to fund a twelve-month 'buy back' of guns, and funding a number of measures in association with the new gun control measures being introduced by the States and Territories. It has also contributed \$2.5 million for the reconstruction of the visitor centre and restaurant at Port Arthur, \$416,000 for counselling services in Tasmania and \$200,000 to the Port Arthur Victims Appeal.

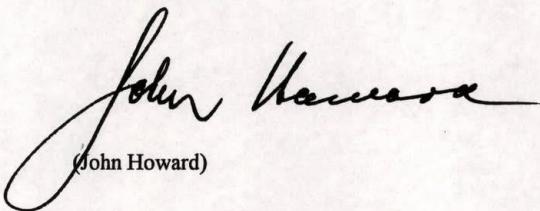
In undertaking these and other actions, governments are reflecting the collective concern of Australians to do what can be done to avoid a repeat of events at Port Arthur. There is a determination at the highest levels to learn the right lessons from an experience that has left a scar on every Australian.

I believe that out of this nightmare there have come positive changes for us as a nation. I hope that in your own personal circumstances you may find it possible, as grief and suffering fade, to regain some of the joys of life.

Susan, I understand that you had just finished your period of secondment to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet when this tragedy occurred. I know that the employees of my Department have been profoundly touched by your tragedy and closely following reports of your recovery. I add my thoughts to theirs.

I join with all of Australia, including I am sure the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Kim Beazley MP, in wishing you the best for the future, however painful the present.

Yours sincerely



John Howard

## PORT ARTHUR SHOOTINGS - DECEASED

NO	NAME	DOB	NEXT OF KIN
1	APLIN, Winifred Joyce 2 Huon Street BANKSIA PARK, SA	7.02.38	APLIN, Kenneth William (Husband) 2 Huon Street BANKSIA PARK SA
2	BENNETT, Walter John 12/86 Hurst Bridge Road DIAMOND CREEK VIC	6.03.30	BENNETT, Lyn (Daughter) 1/10 St Elom Road IVANHOE VIC
3	BURGESS, Nicole Louise RMB 1349 KOONYA TAS	29.08.78	BURGESS, John Sydney (Father) RMB 1349 KOONYA TAS
4	CHUNG, Soo Leng 51A JLN Chan Chim Moo1 Setapak KUALA LUMPUR	11.04.64	CHUNG, Shan Yong (Brother) 51A JLN Chan Chim Moo1 Setapak KUALA LUMPUR 65-96155713 (SGP)
5	GAYLARD, Elva Rhonda 30 Hamlyn Ave HAMLYN HEIGHTS VIC	31.08.47	GAYLARD, Francis James (Brother) 31 Rosalind Street MOOROOPNA VIC
6	HALL, Zoe Anne 9 Barroo Street, SYLVANIA NSW	15.06.67	HALL, Margaret Mabell (Mother) 9 Barroo Street SYLVANIA NSW
7	HOWARD, Elizabeth Jayne RMB A/826 EAGLEHAWK NECK TAS	25.02.69	HOWARD, Stephen (Husband) RMB A/826 EAGLEHAWK NECK TAS
8	HOWARD, Mervyn John RSD E 241 DUNNSTOWN VIC	23.04.41	HOWARD, Stephen John (Son) 331 Walker Street BALLARAT VIC
9	HOWARD, Mary Elizabeth Old Melbourne Rd DUNNSTOWN	23.01.39	HOWARD, Stephen John (Son) 331 Walker Street BALLARAT VIC
10	JARY, Ronald Noel 4 Elinda Court REDCLIFFS VIC	24.01.25	JARY, Vera Myrtle (Wife) 4 Elinda Court REDCLIFFS VIC

11	KISTAN, Tony Vadively 7 Haigh Avenue SUMMERHILL NSW	22.06.44	KISTAN, SARAH (Wife) 7 Haigh Avenue SUMMERHILL NSW
12	LEVER, Leslie Dennis 30 Tecoma Street REDCLIFFS VIC	15.09.42	LEVER, Coralee Helen (Wife) 30 Tecoma Street REDCLIFFS VIC
13	LOUGHTON, Sarah Kate 17 Kiaora Parade FERNTREE GULLY VIC	28.03.81	LOUGHTON, Trevor (Father) 17 Kiaora Parade FERNTREE GULLY VIC
14	MASTERS, Pauline Virjeana 52 Oriel Road WEST IVANHOE VIC	11.12.46	MASTERS, Virginia Blance (Sister) 52 Oriel Road WEST IVANHOE VIC
15	MIKAC, Nanette Patricia George Street NUBEENA TAS	08.04.60	MIKAC, Walter (Husband) George Street NUBEENA TAS
16	MIKAC, Alanna Louise George Street NUBEENA TAS	28.11.89	MIKAC, Walter (Father) George Street NUBEENA TAS
17	MIKAC, Madeline Grace George Street NUBEENA TAS	15.08.92	MIKAC, Walter (Father) George Street NUBEENA TAS
18	MILLS, Andrew Bruce 3 Barana Street MORNINGTON TAS	03.11.56	MILLS, Charles Thomas (Father) 13 Edward Grove MT MARTHA VIC
19	NASH, Peter Brenton 18 Fourth Avenue HOPPERS CROSSING VIC	11.07.63	NASH, Caroline Louise (Wife) 18 Fourth Avenue HOPPERS CROSSING VIC
20	NEANDER, Gwenda Jean 27 McKay Crescent PARAFIELD GARDENS SA	10.01.29	NEANDER, Ronald Francis (Husband) 27 McKay Crescent PARAFIELD GARDENS SA
21	NG (XEENG) Moh Yee William 8 Jacan 552-93 PETALING JAYA SEZ KUALA LUMPUR	17.09.47	CHANG, Kim San (Wife) 8 Jacan 552-93 PETALING JAYA SEZ KUALA LUMPUR

3

22	NIGHTINGALE, Anthony 34 College Cres KEYSBROUGH VIC	23.04.52	NIGHTINGALE, Richard (Son) 4 Ogle Close MIDDLE PARK VIC
23	NIXON, Mary Rose Crabtree HUON TAS	04.09.35	NIXON, Sydney Kenneth (Husband) RSD 1620 Crabtree HUON TAS OR Law School, University of Tasmania
24	POLLARD, Russell James 3/31 Kings Drive Bayside BRUNSWICK NSW	24.03.24	POLLARD, Dawn (Wife) 3/31 Kings Drive Bayside BRUNSWICK NSW
25	QUIN, Janette Wildlife Park BICHENO TAS	30.11.45	QUIN, Neville John (Husband) Wildlife Park BICHENO TAS
26	SALZMAN, Helene Maria 20 Wirree Drive OCEAN SHORES NSW	24.05.45	SALZMAN, Robert Max (Son) Obederalstrasse 25 Weiach SWITZERLAND Contact via Jim Dulton (Solicitor) PERTH WA ph 012627763
27	SALZMAN, Robert 20 Wirree Drive OCEAN SHORES NSW	27.02.38	AS ABOVE
28	SCOTT, Kate Elizabeth 61 Walderton Ave BALGA WA	29.12.74	SCOTT, Miles Edward (Father) Weatwood Farm Railroad Rd WATHEROO WA 096517002
29	SHARP, Kevin Vincent 4 Link Avenue KILMORE VIC	16.11.27	SHARP, Marlene Joan (Wife) 4 Link Avenue KILMORE VIC
30	SHARP, Raymond John 103 Hamilton Street KILMORE VIC	22.04.29	LOREN, Marlene (Daughter) 2/429 Middleborough Rd BOXHILL VIC

31	THOMPSON, Royce William 3 Heath Avenue KINGSTON BEACH TAS	19.09.36	THOMPSON, Coleen (Wife) 3 Heath Avenue KINGSTON BEACH TAS
32	WINTER, Jason Bernard 90 Giblin Street NEW TOWN TAS	14.01.67	WINTER, Joan Frances (Wife) 90 Giblin Street NEW TOWN TAS
33	MARTIN, David Seascape PORT ARTHUR	28.04.24	MARTIN, Glenn Stephen (Son) 22 Lord Street SANDY BAY TAS
34	MARTIN, Noelene Joyce (Sally) Seascape PORT ARTHUR	18.10.26	MARTIN, Glenn Stephen (Son) 22 Lord Street SANDY BAY TAS
35	PEARS, Glenn Roy 6/11 Harriette Street NEUTRAL BAY NSW	26.03.61	LIVEROD, Elina (Wife (Separated) 167 Brooker Avenue NORTH HOBART TAS or PEARS, Philip 51 Martin Avenue FLORAVILLE NSW (dispute between family)

PORT ARTHUR SHOOTINGS - INJURED

NO	NAME	ADDRESS	INJURY
1	BARKER, Patricia Gwen	8 Bambra Court VERMONT VIC	Facial
2	BROOME, Gerald (Gary)	1 Green Court KILMORE VIC	Facial
3	COLLYER, Graham	2/7 Mender Street: DONCASTER VIC	Facial
4	COOK, Bridget Ann	Robinson's Road TRIABUNNA TAS	Leg
5	CROSSWELL, Peter David	18 Leyden Avenue SEVEN MILE BEACH TAS	Buttock
6	ELLIOTT, Robert John	Terrana Road VERMONT VIC	Head & Arm
7	FIDLER, Gaye Jeanette	10 Robert Court EAST ROSANNA VIC	Chest
8	FIDLER, John	10 Robert Court EAST ROSANNA VIC	Facial
9	FRANCIS, Gordon Howard	33 Elgin Avenue WARRANDALE S A	Chest
10	HORNE, Doug	9 Riding Way FERNTREE GULLY VIC	Arm
11	HUTCHINSON, Douglas Ivan	56 Bennett Street BENDIGO VIC	Arm
12	LOUGHTON, Carol	17 Kiora Road FERNTREE GULLY VIC	Back & Head
13	LAW, Pamela Kathleen	116 Junction Street WINSTON HILLS NSW	Leg
14	LOCKLEY, Yvonne	2 Huon Street BANKSIA PARK SA	Facial

15	OLSEN, Dennis	6408 Kansas Street Vancouver WASHINGTON USA	Facial
16	QUIN, Neville	East Coast Wild Life Park SICHENO TAS	Neck
17	SCHADENDORFF, Maureen Patricia	19 Link Avenue KILMORE VIC	Back
18	SHARP, Mariene Joan	4 Link Avenue KILMORE VIC	Ears
19	WALKER, Thelma	25 Normans Street MERRYLANDS NSW	Back & Ankle
20	WHITE, Linda Maree	5 Toon Court DANDENONG VIC	Arm
21	WILLIAMS, Simon Roger	26 Garsia Street CAMPBELL NSW ACT	Arm & Facial
22	WILLIAMS, Susan	Canadian High Commission CANBERRA ACT	Head & Hand