

MS25-000845

INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 14 DECEMBER 2025 BONDI TERRORIST ATTACK

Prime Minister, we recommend you:

- 1. Agree an independent Commonwealth review (the Review) to assess whether relevant Commonwealth intelligence and law enforcement agencies - predominantly the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) - in the context of the Bondi terrorist attack performed to maximum effectiveness; have adequate powers; the right systems, processes and procedures; and an appropriate authorising environment for information sharing with other federal, state and territory agencies.

Agreed / Not Agreed

- 2. Agree the Review be led by Mr Dennis Richardson AC, supported by a secretariat from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

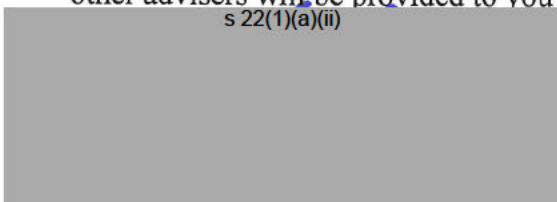
Agreed / Not Agreed

- 3. Agree the Review be provided to Government by 30 April 2026, and include a classified and unclassified version.

Agreed / Not Agreed

- 4. Note the draft Terms of Reference and the process for engagement of Mr Richardson and any other advisers will be provided to you shortly for your agreement.

Noted / Please Discuss



22/12/25

ANTHONY ALBANESE

Date:

Comments:

KEY POINTS

- 1. We recommend you agree PM&C facilitate an independent Commonwealth review in the context of the Bondi terrorist attack, led by Mr Dennis Richardson AC.
- 2. The overall objective of the Review is to ensure security agencies are empowered to and are performing to maximum effectiveness. The Review will assess whether the relevant Commonwealth agencies - predominantly ASIO and the AFP, but also including other agencies such as the Australian Border Force- have adequate legislative powers; the right systems, processes and procedures; and an appropriate authorising environment for information sharing with other federal and state and territory agencies, in the context of the Bondi terrorist attack. The review team will consult with New South Wales (NSW) agencies and, to the extent necessary, agencies in other states and territories.
- 3. Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Review are currently being prepared and consulted, and will be provided to you as quickly as possible for your agreement. To ensure that Mr Richardson has the required authorising environment the ToR will need to specify that Mr Richardson has full access to any

information; material; or officers. The ToR will also ensure the appropriate linkages to the NSW Government.

4. The Review will be provided to Government by 30 April 2026. It will include a classified and unclassified version.
5. Mr Richardson is the former Secretary of Defence (2012-2017), Secretary of DFAT (2010-2012), Australian Ambassador to the US (2005-2009), and Director-General of Security (1996-2005). He has been involved in multiple independent reviews, and led the 2019 Comprehensive Review of the Legal Framework of the National Intelligence Community (Richardson Review). He is currently a member of the Defence Strategic Review and National Defence Strategy External Advisory Panel. PM&C assesses that this does not present a conflict of interest.
6. Should you agree to appoint Mr Richardson as the lead, the mechanism for engagement of Mr Richardson will be provided to you for your agreement once finalised.
7. Similar to the 2024 Independent Intelligence Review, the Review would be hosted in PM&C and supported by a small secretariat of public servants. Mr Richardson has indicated that bringing on board some additional expert support may be beneficial.
8. The Review will leverage relevant content in the 2024 Independent Intelligence Review (led by Mr Richard Maude and Dr Heather Smith PSM) and the Richardson Review; Government is currently implementing both reviews.
9. We recommend you engage NSW and other state and territory counterparts as appropriate, to seek their cooperation with the Review. s 47B(a), s 47C
s 47B(a), s 47C
10. Draft talking points to accompany the published media release are included at [Attachment A](#).

Risks and Sensitivities

Public interest and pressure on outcomes of the Review will remain high, therefore, it will be important to emphasise that the Review is independent. While outcomes of the Review will be classified, Mr Richardson will produce an unclassified report for release.

Separate advice will be provided on the implications of the possible NSW Royal Commission.

Financial Implications

The Department is presently discussing the terms of Mr Richardson's engagement, including the fees that he will charge and the cost of any additional expert support. In previous reviews, Mr Richardson has charged \$4,400 per day (GST inclusive). Given this rate is from Reviews conducted at the start of 2024, he has advised his costs may now be higher. PM&C has limited capacity to absorb new functions without needing to divert resources from other high priority work. s 47C

s 47C

Consultation

Government Division, Social Policy Division, Corporate Division

~~PROTECTED-CABINET~~ Personal Privacy

Richard Sadleir
FAS National Security Division
Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
21 December 2025

Policy Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Phone no: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Circulation

PM&C Secretary; DS, International and Security Group, *E Lawson*; DS, AUKUS Group, *K Morony*; DS, Social Policy Group, *B Exell*; CFO, *K Cooper*; FAS, Economic Division, *L Rawlings*; FAS, National Security Division, *R Sadleir*; a/FAS, Government Division, *K Lin*; a/FAS, Ministerial Support Division, *L Kolmar*; AS, Fiscal Policy Branch, *J Neil*.

PMO Chief of Staff; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) Advisers s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47E(d) [@pm.gov.au](mailto:pm.gov.au)

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A - DRAFT TALKING POINTS

Draft talking points

The Independent Review into Federal Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies in the context of the 14 December 2025 Bondi terrorist attack (the Review)

What is the scope of the Independent Review?

- The ISIS-inspired atrocity last Sunday reinforces the rapidly changing security environment in our nation. Our security agencies must be in the best position to respond.
- The Independent Review will ensure intelligence and law enforcement agencies are empowered to perform optimally.
- It will focus on relevant Commonwealth intelligence and law enforcement agencies—predominantly the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and Australian Federal Police (AFP).
- In the context of the Bondi terrorist attack, the Independent Review will assess whether agencies:
 - have adequate powers
 - the right systems, processes and procedures
 - have an appropriate authorising environment for information sharing with other federal, state and territory agencies.

Who will lead the Independent Review?

- The Independent Review will be led by Dennis Richardson—a former Secretary of the Department of Defence, former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and former Intelligence Chief.
- Mr Richardson will be supported by a secretariat in PM&C.

Will the Terms of Reference be made public?

- My department is working to prepare the terms of reference.
- Any terms of reference will ensure Mr Richardson has the required authorising environment and access to undertake the review.

If pressed:

- Once fully developed, consideration will be given to whether the terms of reference can be publicly released.

When will the Independent Review commence?

- The Independent Review will commence as a matter of urgency.

Will the review team be able to compel people to provide evidence?

- The review team will consult widely across agencies at the Commonwealth, and State and Territory level.
- We anticipate agencies will engage fully with the review to ensure our intelligence and law enforcement agencies are empowered to perform to maximum effectiveness.

Will the review team work with NSW agencies as part of the Independent Review?

- The review team will consult widely across agencies at the Commonwealth, and State and Territory level.

When will the review be finalised?

- The review team will present its findings to Government by 30 April 2026.

Will the findings be made public?

- Yes.

How does the Commonwealth's Independent Review relate to NSW's Royal Commission?

- Both reviews will consider the circumstances of the Bondi terrorist attack with a view to ensuring it can never be repeated.

Was the Commonwealth forced into this review by NSW's decision to call a Royal Commission?

- No. The ISIS-inspired atrocity last Sunday reinforces the rapidly changing security environment in our nation. Our security agencies must be in the best position to respond.
- The Prime Minister noted (on 17 December 2025) a need to look back at what happened in 2019 when the alleged offender was assessed by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, and to look at the way the Commonwealth and state agencies interact.
- The Commonwealth's Independent Review will do just that.

How will this work build on the work of the 2024 Independent Intelligence Review?

- The Government commissioned the 2024 Independent Intelligence Review to ensure that our intelligence agencies remain well-placed to serve Australia's national interest.
- Following the Bondi terrorist attack, it is important to ensure intelligence and law enforcement agencies are empowered to perform to maximum effectiveness.
- The Independent Review will look at the legislative powers, systems and authorising environment for information sharing to support this.

From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Exell, Blair](#); [REDACTED] s 47E(d); [Rayner, Karla](#); [REDACTED] s 47E(d)
Subject: Key Issues [REDACTED] s 47C [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Monday, 22 December 2025 10:10:25 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[For PMO - \[REDACTED\] s 47C .docx](#)

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Hi [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

As discussed with Blair, attached is a quick overview on key issues we have identified if useful

[REDACTED] s 47C

Thanks
Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EO: [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Kennedy, Steven](#)
Cc: [Fuell, Blair](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [Lawson, Elly](#); [Crosthwaite, Kerren](#); [Raman, Padma](#); s 47E(d)
s 47E(d); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); [Rayner, Karla](#); s 47E(d)
Subject: Bondi Terror Attack - daily update - 23 December 2025 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Tuesday, 23 December 2025 8:35:17 PM
Attachments: [Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 23 Dec 2025.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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Steven, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Attached is today's daily update – as at 8pm Tuesday 23 December.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you
Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA s 22(1)(a)(ii)

EO: s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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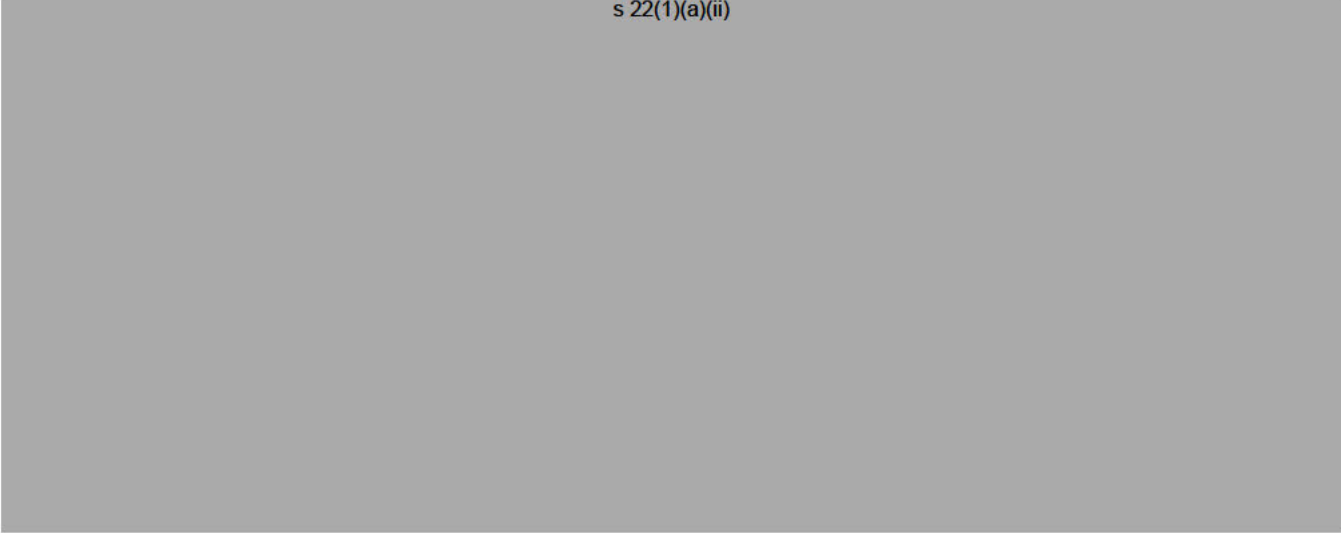


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Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 23 December 2025

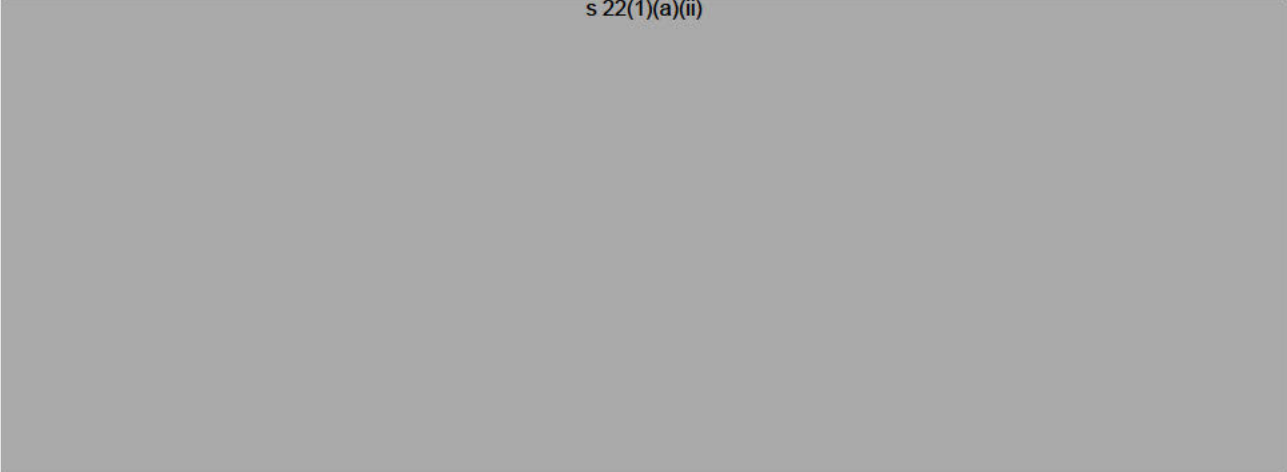
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Richardson Review

- Brief with TORs and letter provided to PM for consideration. Contractual arrangements for the appointment are underway. Preparations for website update underway. Office setup and secretariat establishment well progressed. Further meetings with Mr Richardson and secretariat is scheduled for morning of 24 December 2024.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Briefs and correspondence as at 23 December 2025

- With PMO:

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Brief on Review ToRs and process for engagement of Mr Richardson and other advisers (MS25-000849).
- On hand in PM&C:
 - Advice regarding implications of possible NSW Royal Commission for the Commonwealth)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

MS25-000849

INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 14 DECEMBER 2025 BONDI TERRORIST ATTACK

Prime Minister, we recommend you:

1. Sign the instrument of appointment at Attachment A to engage Mr Dennis Richardson AC as the Independent Reviewer for the Independent Commonwealth Review into Australia’s federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies (the Independent Review) from 22 December 2025 to 1 May 2026.

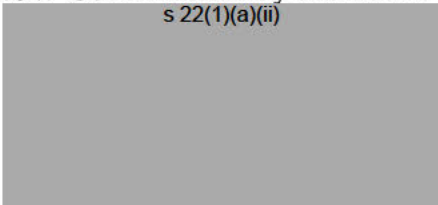
Signed / Not Signed

2. Agree the Terms of Reference (ToR) (Attachment B) for the Independent Review.

Agreed / Not Agreed

3. Sign the letter (Attachment C) to the Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier of New South Wales (NSW) (Premier Minns) requesting cooperation with the Independent Review in parallel to any inquiry that the NSW Government may undertake.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Signed / Not Signed

24/12/25

ANTHONY ALBANESE

Date:

Comments:

KEY POINTS

1. On 21 December 2025, you announced the Independent Review to be led by Mr Dennis Richardson AC, with the support of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) (MS25-000845 refers).
2. To facilitate Mr Richardson’s role, PM&C recommends you sign the instrument of appointment at Attachment A. This will enable PM&C to engage Mr Richardson with a commencement date of 22 December 2025.
3. The proposed ToR (Attachment B) have been drafted in conjunction with Mr Richardson, and consulted with the Department of Home Affairs, the Attorney-General’s Department (AGD), the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Office of National Intelligence (ONI). Once you have agreed the ToR they will be published on PM&C’s website.
4. The draft letter (Attachment C) to Premier Minns proposes that the Independent Review will proceed independently, but in cooperation with any NSW Review in relation to the Bondi attack. The draft letter notes that the Independent Review is best placed to lead in certain areas compared to the NSW Review, due to limitations imposed by legislation, including the secrecy provisions. The Independent Review would also limit duplication and undue resource strain on agencies. The draft letter offers NSW Government an early meeting with the Mr Richardson and proposes a classified briefing be offered to the NSW Premier on completion of the Independent Review, in addition to the unclassified report.

- PM&C will subsequently provide a draft a letter for you to send to relevant Secretaries and agency heads to provide the ToR and set out your expectations that agencies will cooperate fully with the Independent Review.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

- To appoint Mr Richardson as the Independent Reviewer, PM&C recommends that you sign the instrument of appointment at Attachment A to make a non-statutory appointment. This is consistent with the approach to appointments taken in relation to other significant reviews and bodies that you have commissioned - for example, the engagement of the Independent Covid-19 Panel, as well as the engagement of the Interim Defence and Veterans' Services Commissioner Michael Manthorpe.

Risks and Sensitivities

- s 47B(a) , s 47C

[Redacted]
- The Independent Review and NSW inquiry would need to be conducted separate to the prosecution of the alleged offenders and exercise significant caution to avoid interfering with the prosecution.

Financial Implications

The Department is presently discussing the terms of Mr Richardson's engagement, including the fees that he will charge and those for any additional expert support. For reference, in previous reviews Mr Richardson has previously charged \$4,400 per day (GST inclusive). Given this is an earlier rate from Reviews he conducted at the start of 2024, he has advised his costs may now be higher. The Department has limited capacity to absorb new functions without needing to divert resources from other high priority work. s 47C

s 47C

Consultation

PM&C DIVISIONS – Government Division, Corporate Division, Intergovernmental Relations and Reform Division

DEPARTMENTS – Department of Home Affairs, the Attorney-General's Department (AGD), the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Office of National Intelligence (ONI).

Richard Sadleir
FAS National Security Division
Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Phone no: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

23 December 2025

PM&C Secretary; DS, International and Security Group, *E Lawson*, DS, AUKUS Group, *K Morony*; DS, Social Policy Group, *B Exell*; a/CFO, *T Watts*; FAS, Economic Division, *L Rawlings*; FAS, National Security Division, *R Sadleir*; a/FAS, Government Division, *K Lin*; a/FAS, Ministerial Support Division, *L Kolmar*; AS, Fiscal Policy Branch, *J Neil*.

PMO Chief of Staff; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Advisers: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) [@pm.gov.au](mailto:pm.gov.au)

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT

ATTACHMENT B TERMS OF REFERENCE

ATTACHMENT C LETTER TO THE PREMIER OF NSW CHRIS MINNS

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE



PRIME MINISTER
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Reference: MS25-000849

24 DEC 2025

The Hon. Chris Minns, MP
Premier of NSW
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

Chris,

The tragic impacts of the anti-Semitic attack in Bondi on 14 December 2025 continue to reverberate in the families, communities, regions and nation that surround us. I greatly appreciate the way we have been able to cooperate across the Commonwealth and NSW to support the people most affected.

The ISIS-inspired terrorist attack in Bondi reinforces the rapidly changing security environment in our nation. Our intelligence and law enforcement agencies must be in the best position to respond. With this in mind, I write to seek your support for the NSW Government and NSW law enforcement agencies to cooperate with the Independent Commonwealth Review (the Independent Review) led by Mr Dennis Richardson AC, which I announced on 21 December 2025.

The Independent Review will assess, in the context of the Bondi terrorist attack, whether relevant Commonwealth intelligence and law enforcement agencies performed to maximum effectiveness; have adequate powers; the right systems, processes and procedures; and an appropriate authorising environment for information sharing with other federal, state and territory agencies. The Independent Review will be provided to the Commonwealth Government by 30 April 2026. The terms of reference of the Independent Review are attached for your information.

I have committed, including underscoring in public remarks, that the Commonwealth Government, including our intelligence and law enforcement agencies will fully cooperate with any NSW inquiry you decide to establish.

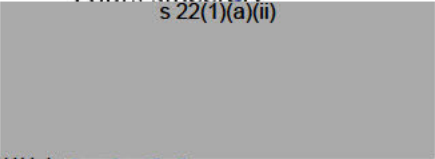
While you are developing your approach to a NSW inquiry, owing to jurisdiction and legal considerations, I consider the Commonwealth will be better placed to lead in certain areas to overcome limitations imposed by legislation. Where findings of the Independent Review would assist the NSW inquiry, we would be open to exploring a pathway for information sharing. This may reduce duplication of effort and limit undue resource strain on affected agencies which are responsible for ongoing security efforts.

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You will be offered an early meeting with the Independent Reviewer and a classified briefing on conclusion of the Independent Review, as well as a copy of the publicly available report.

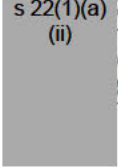
Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Yours sincerely,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii) ANTHONY ALBANESE

Encl.



Independent Commonwealth Review into Australia's federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies

Draft Terms of Reference

In the context of the Bondi terrorist attack Mr Dennis Richardson AC has been asked to undertake an Independent Review into Australia's federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to be completed by the end of April 2026.

Mr Richardson will assess whether relevant Commonwealth intelligence and law enforcement agencies - predominantly the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Australian Federal Police - in the context of the Bondi terrorist attack performed to maximum effectiveness; have adequate powers; the right systems, processes and procedures; and an appropriate authorising environment for information sharing with other federal, state and territory agencies.

In doing so, Mr Richardson will consider the circumstances in which the alleged offenders were assessed by agencies over time, to inform any adjustments that are necessary to the way that Commonwealth and state and territory law enforcement and intelligence agencies all interact with each other.

In particular, Mr Richardson will examine the following matters in relation to the Bondi terrorist attack:

- what relevant Commonwealth agencies knew about the alleged offenders before the attack, and when
- the interaction and information sharing between Commonwealth agencies, and between Commonwealth and state and territory agencies
- what judgements were made and actions taken by relevant agencies
- whether there were any additional measures that relevant Commonwealth agencies could have taken to prevent the terrorist attack
- whether relevant Commonwealth agencies were prevented from taking prohibitive actions by the current legislative framework and authorising environment
- what additional measures, if any, should be taken by relevant Commonwealth agencies to prevent similar attacks occurring in the future:
 - whether they have adequate legislative powers, the right systems, processes and procedures, and an appropriate authorising environment for information sharing with other federal and state and territory agencies
 - whether warrant and data access regimes and powers are adequate
 - whether any legislative amendments are required.

Mr Richardson will engage with NSW agencies and, to the extent necessary, agencies in other states and territories.

The review will build on the findings of the 2024 Independent Intelligence Review and also the 2019 Comprehensive Review of the Legal Framework of the National Intelligence Community.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will establish a secretariat for the review and provide logistics support to the review as required.

Mr Richardson will have full access to all material he considers may be relevant to his inquiry. Relevant departments and agencies are to cooperate fully with the review and provide assistance in the form of documents, data, materials and meetings as requested.

DRAFT



Commonwealth Government Independent Review into Federal Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies (Independent Reviewer) Appointment 2025

I, ANTHONY NORMAN ALBANESE, Prime Minister of Australia, appoint Mr Dennis James Richardson AC as the Independent Reviewer to lead the Commonwealth review to assess relevant Commonwealth intelligence and law enforcement agencies for the period commencing on 22 December 2025 and ending on 1 May 2026.

Dated **24 / 12 / 25**
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Anthony Norman Albanese
Prime Minister

From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [Kennedy, Steven](#); s 22(1)(a) ; [Henty, Philippa](#); s 22(1)(a)
Cc: [Exell, Blair](#); s 47E(d) ; [Crosthwaite, Kerren](#); [Raman, Padma](#); [Lawson, Ely](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); s 47E(d) ; [Henty, Philippa](#)
Subject: For information - Bondi Terrorist Attack - Daily Update - 24 December 2025 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Wednesday, 24 December 2025 6:23:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 24 Dec 2025.docx](#)

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Steven, s 22(1)(a)(ii) and Philippa

Today's update is attached for your information, s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Thank you
Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EO: s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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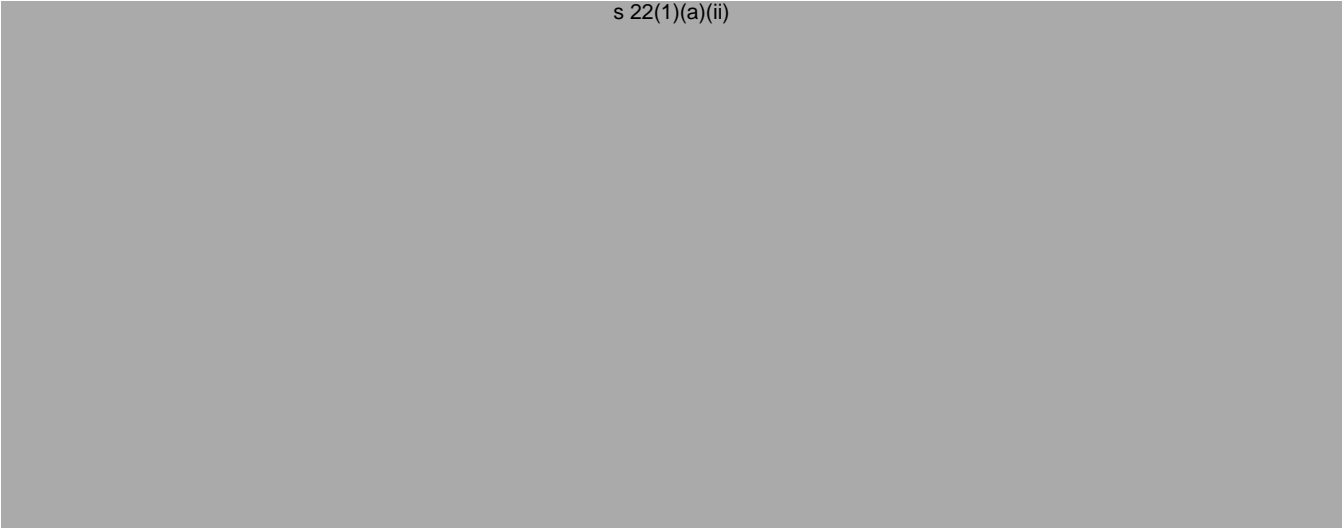


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Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 24 December 2025


s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Richardson Review

- TORs have been approved by the PM; website content is prepared, pending advice from PMO to go live the TORs. Contractual arrangements for the appointment of reviewers are underway. Office setup and secretariat establishment well progressed. Next meeting with Mr Richardson, Mr Sheehan, Mr Baxter and secretariat is scheduled for morning of 5 January 2026.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

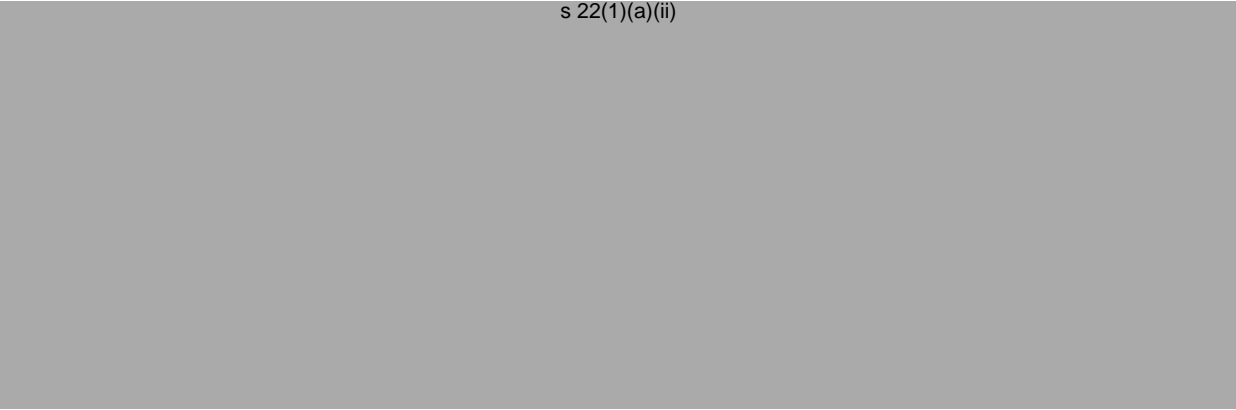


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Briefs and correspondence as at 24 December 2025

- With PMO:
 - Brief on Review ToRs and process for engagement of Mr Richardson and other advisers (MS25-000849).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



From: [Rose, Andrew](#)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Rayner, Karla](#); [Sadleir, Richard](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; [Exell, Blair](#); [Doherty, Greta](#); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Lin, Katy](#)
Subject: Bondi: Independent review: updated talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 24 December 2025 3:34:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[251224 - Bondi Independent Review - updated TPs.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)
(ii)

Please find attached updated talking points in relation to the Independent Review.

Kind regards

Andrew

Andrew Rose

Assistant Secretary, Domestic Security
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) | m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600
e. andrew.rose@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Draft talking points – The Independent Review into Federal Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies in the context of the 14 December 2025 Bondi Terrorist Attack (the Review)-

What is the scope of the Independent Review?

- The ISIS-inspired atrocity last Sunday reinforces the rapidly changing security environment in our nation.
- Our security agencies must be in the best position to respond.
- The Independent Review will ensure intelligence and law enforcement agencies are empowered to perform optimally.
- It will focus on relevant Commonwealth intelligence and law enforcement agencies—predominantly the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and Australian Federal Police (AFP).
- In the context of the Bondi terrorist attack, the Independent Review will assess whether agencies:
 - have adequate powers
 - the right systems, processes and procedures
 - have an appropriate authorising environment for information sharing with other federal, state and territory agencies.
- The review will also consider the circumstances in which the alleged offenders were assessed by agencies over time
 - This will inform any adjustments that are necessary to the way Commonwealth and state and territory law enforcement and intelligence agencies interact with each other

Who will lead the Independent Review?

- The Independent Review will be led by Dennis Richardson—a former Secretary of the Department of Defence, former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and former Intelligence Chief.
- Mr Richardson will be supported by a secretariat in PM&C.

Will the Terms of Reference be made public?

- My department is working to prepare the terms of reference.
- Any terms of reference will ensure Mr Richardson has the required authorising environment and access to undertake the review.

If pressed:

- Once fully developed, consideration will be given to whether the terms of reference can be publicly released.

When will the Independent Review commence?

- Mr Richardson commenced work on the independent review on 22 December, meeting with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to discuss his terms of reference.

Will the review team be able to compel people to provide evidence?

- The review team will consult widely across agencies at the Commonwealth, and State and Territory level.
- We anticipate agencies will engage fully with the review to ensure our intelligence and law enforcement agencies are empowered to perform to maximum effectiveness.

Will the review team work with NSW agencies as part of the Independent Review?

- The review team will consult widely across agencies at the Commonwealth, and State and Territory level.

When will the review be finalised?

- Mr Richardson will provide the review to Government by the end of April 2026.

Will the findings be made public?

- Yes. As the Prime Minister said on 23 December, whatever can be made public will be made public.

How does the Commonwealth's Independent Review relate to NSW's proposed Royal Commission?

- Both reviews will consider the circumstances of the Bondi terrorist attack with a view to ensuring it can never be repeated.
- The Independent Review can feed into any Royal Commission established by NSW.

Was the Commonwealth forced into this review by NSW's decision to call a Royal Commission?

- No. The ISIS-inspired atrocity last Sunday reinforces the rapidly changing security environment in our nation. Our security agencies must be in the best position to respond.
- The Prime Minister noted (on 17 December 2025) a need to look back at what happened in 2019 - when the alleged offender was known to the NSW Joint Counter Terrorism Team, including ASIO - and to look at the way the Commonwealth and state agencies interact.
- The Commonwealth's Independent Review will do just that.

Why won't the Commonwealth establish a Royal Commission in response to the Bondi terrorist attack?

- The Government is focused on urgency and unity, not division and delay.
- The Independent Review, to be completed before the end of April, will examine the circumstances of the Bondi terrorist attack and whether there are measures that need to be taken to prevent similar attacks occurring in the future
- The Government will then be in a position to take action.

How will this work build on the work of the 2024 Independent Intelligence Review?

- The Government commissioned the 2024 Independent Intelligence Review to ensure that our intelligence agencies remain well-placed to serve Australia's national interest.
- Following the Bondi terrorist attack, it is important to ensure intelligence and law enforcement agencies are empowered to perform to maximum effectiveness.
- The Independent Review will look at the legislative powers, systems and authorising environment for information sharing to support this.

Has the Government implemented all of the recommendations of Dennis Richardson's 2019 Comprehensive Review of the Legal Framework for the National Intelligence Community?

- Government has passed a range of reforms that implement recommendations from the Comprehensive Review, including, most recently, the Strengthening Oversight of the National Intelligence Community Bill 2025, which received Royal Assent on 4 December 2025.
- We continually assess the legal framework of our national intelligence and law enforcement agencies to ensure it remains fit for purpose in a constantly changing threat environment. The recommendations of the Comprehensive Review inform that process.

From: [Henty, Philippa](#)
To: [Doherty, Greta](#); [Kennedy, Steven](#); [REDACTED s 22(1)(a)(ii)]
Cc: [Exell, Blair](#); [REDACTED s 47E(d)]; [Crosthwaite, Kerren](#); [Raman, Padma](#); [Lawson, Elly](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [REDACTED s 47E(d)]
Subject: For information - Bondi Terrorist Attack - Daily Update - 27 December 2025 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Saturday, 27 December 2025 6:52:00 PM
Attachments: [image003.gif](#)
[image004.gif](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 27 Dec 2025.docx](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Good evening,

[REDACTED s 22(1)(a)(ii)] .

Today's update is attached, [REDACTED s 22(1)(a)(ii)]
[REDACTED]

Kind regards,

Pip

Pip Henty | A/g Assistant Secretary
 Education and Immigration Branch
 p. [REDACTED s 22(1)(a)(ii)] | m. [REDACTED s 22(1)(a)(ii)]
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600
 e. philippa.henty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



From: Doherty, Greta <Greta.Doherty@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 December 2025 6:23 PM
To: Kennedy, Steven <Steven.Kennedy@pmc.gov.au>; [REDACTED s 22(1)(a)(ii)]
 Henty, Philippa <Philippa.Henty@pmc.gov.au>; [REDACTED s 22(1)(a)(ii)]
Cc: Exell, Blair <Blair.Exell@pmc.gov.au>; [REDACTED s 47E(d)]
 [REDACTED s 47E(d)]@pmc.gov.au>; Crosthwaite, Kerren <Kerren.Crosthwaite@pmc.gov.au>; Raman, Padma <Padma.Raman@pmc.gov.au>; Lawson, Elly <Elly.Lawson@pmc.gov.au>; Elliston, Lisa <Lisa.Elliston@pmc.gov.au>; Morony, Kendra <Kendra.Morony@pmc.gov.au>; [REDACTED s 47E(d)]
 [REDACTED s 47E(d)]@pmc.gov.au>; Henty, Philippa <Philippa.Henty@pmc.gov.au>

Subject: For information - Bondi Terrorist Attack - Daily Update - 24 December 2025
[SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

PROTECTED//CABINET

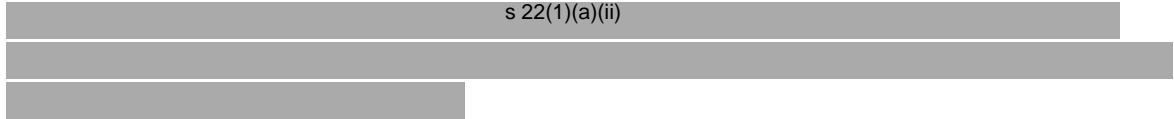
Steven, s 22(1)(a)(ii) and Philippa

Today's update is attached for your information, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

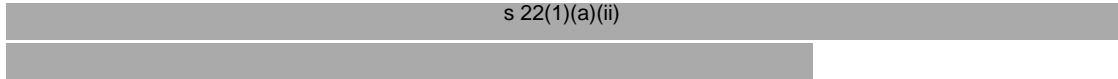
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Thank you
Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

EO: s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





PROTECTED

Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 27 December 2025

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Richardson Review

- TORs have been approved by the PM and the PM's letter to Premier Minns signed; website content is prepared, pending advice from PMO to go live. A contract is ready for Dennis Richardson – he has indicated he will sign on 6 January. Contractual arrangements for Mr Sheehan and Mr Baxter are underway. Accommodation will be arranged by 5 January. Next meeting with Mr Richardson, Mr Sheehan, Mr Baxter and secretariat is scheduled for morning of 5 January 2026.

PROTECTED

Briefs and correspondence as at 27 December 2025

- With PMO for action:
 - MPs Ryan/ Chaney/ Scamps/ Steggall letter in relation to [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[REDACTED], call for a Royal Commission [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [Kennedy, Steven](#); [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Exell, Blair](#); [REDACTED] s 47E(d); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Lin, Katy](#); [Lawson, Ely](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); [Crosthwaite, Kerren](#); [REDACTED] s 47E(d); [Raman, Padma](#)
Subject: Bondi response Daily Update - 28 December 2025 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Sunday, 28 December 2025 6:15:26 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 28 Dec 2025.docx](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Good evening

Bondi response update as at 28 December 2025 is attached for your information.

[REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thank you
Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EO: [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





PROTECTED

Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 28 December 2025

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Independent Review

- TORs have been approved by the PM and the PM's letter to Premier Minns signed; website content is prepared, pending advice from PMO to go live. A contract is ready for Mr Richardson – he has indicated he will sign on 6 January. Contractual arrangements for Mr Sheehan and Mr Baxter are underway. Accommodation will be arranged by 5 January. Next meeting with Mr Richardson, Mr Sheehan, Mr Baxter and secretariat is scheduled for morning of 6 January 2026.

PROTECTED

Briefs and correspondence as at 28 December 2025

- With PMO for action:
 - Response to the Rabbinical Association of Australasia in relation to calls for a Royal Commission (MC25-164913).
 - MPs Ryan/ Chaney/ Scamps/ Steggall letter in relation to s 22(1)(a)(ii), s 22(1)(a)(ii),
s 22(1)(a)(ii), call for a Royal Commission s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [Kennedy, Steven](#); [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Exell, Blair](#); [REDACTED] s 47E(d); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Lin, Katy](#); [Lawson, Ely](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); [Crosthwaite, Kerren](#); [REDACTED] s 47E(d); [Raman, Padma](#); [Luchetti, Narelle](#)
Subject: Bondi response Daily Update - 29 December 2025 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Monday, 29 December 2025 6:38:23 PM
Attachments: [Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 29 Dec 2025.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Good evening

Bondi response update as at 29 December 2025 is attached for your information. From today, we have included new updates in red text.

Key updates today include [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[REDACTED] publication of the Independent Inquiry Terms of Reference on the PM&C website.

Thank you
Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EO: [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



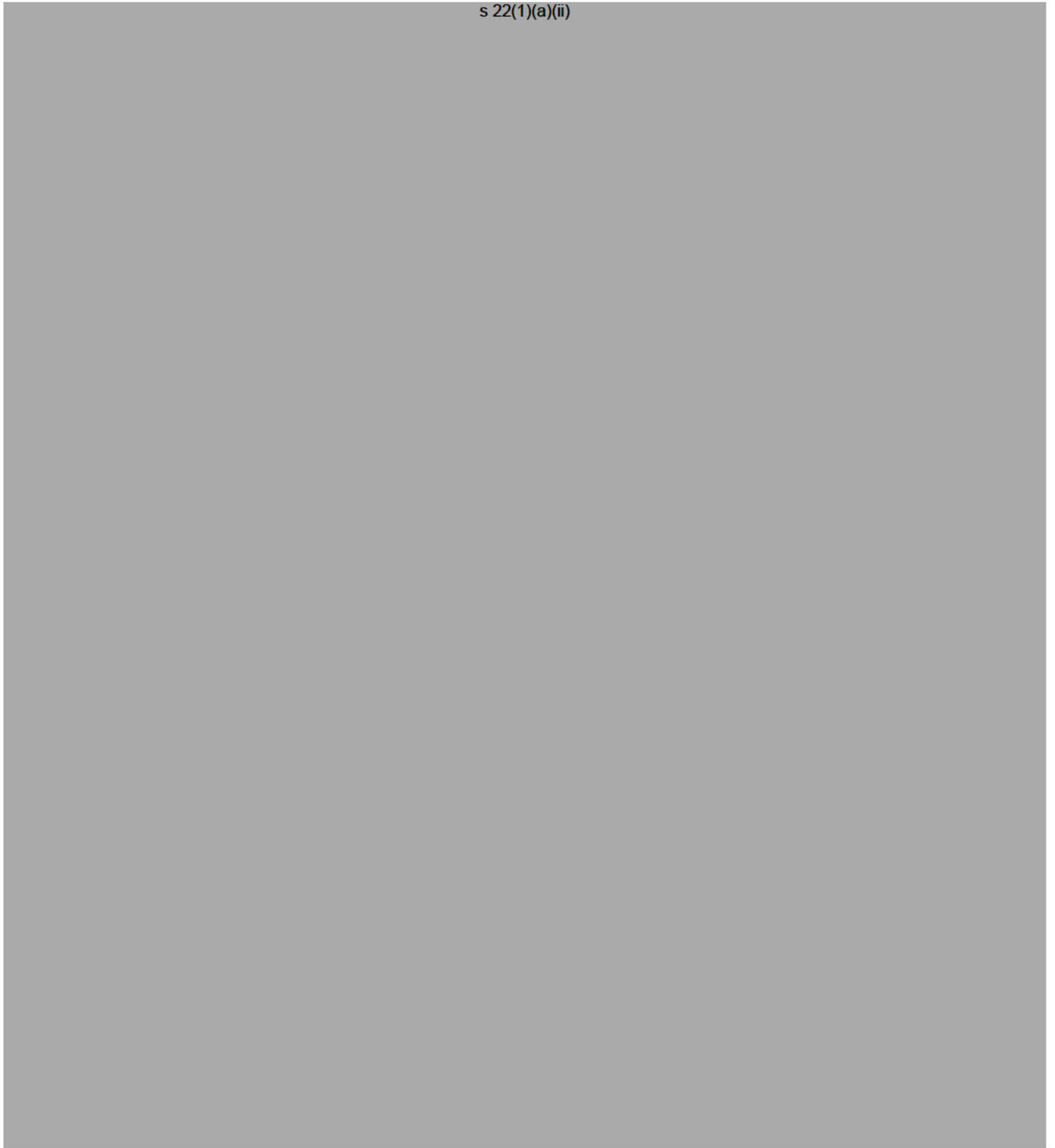


PROTECTED

Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 29 December 2025

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



PROTECTED

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Independent Review

- The Prime Minister announced the terms of reference for the Independent Commonwealth Review into Australia's federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies. Details have been published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website. Mr Richardson has been advised.

Other updates (by exception only)

- The families of the Bondi victims have published an open letter the Prime Minister calling for a Royal Commission. The PDMS team is conducting a search to check if a letter has been directly received by the office.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Briefs and correspondence as at 29 December 2025

- With PMO for action:
 - Response to the Rabbinical Association of Australasia in relation to calls for a Royal Commission (MC25-164913).
 - MPs Ryan/ Chaney/ Scamps/ Steggall letter in relation to s 22(1)(a)(ii), call for a Royal Commission s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- On hand in PM&C:
 - The Department is preparing a letter from the PM to NIC agency heads setting out expectations for engagement with the Independent Review.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [Kennedy, Steven](#); [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Exell, Blair](#); [Raman, Padma](#); [Luchetti, Narelle](#); [Eliston, Lisa](#); [Lawson, Ely](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [Crosthwaite, Kerren](#); [redacted] s 47E(d); [redacted] s 47E(d); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Lin, Katy](#)
Subject: Bondi response - daily update - 30 December 2025 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Tuesday, 30 December 2025 6:08:46 PM
Attachments: [Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 30 Dec 2025.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Good afternoon

Today's update, as at 30 December 2025, is attached for your information.

[redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EO: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



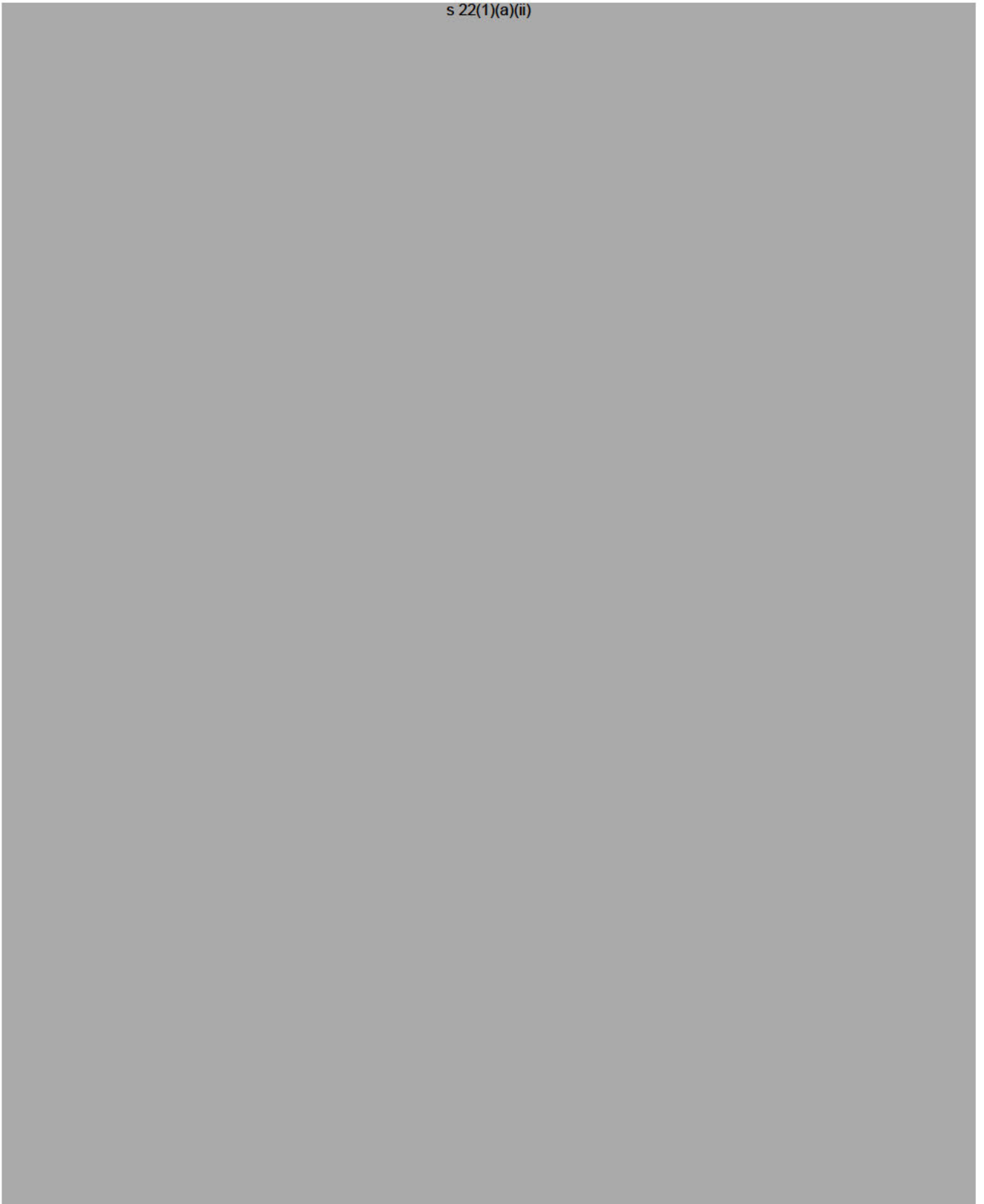


PROTECTED


Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 30 December 2025

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

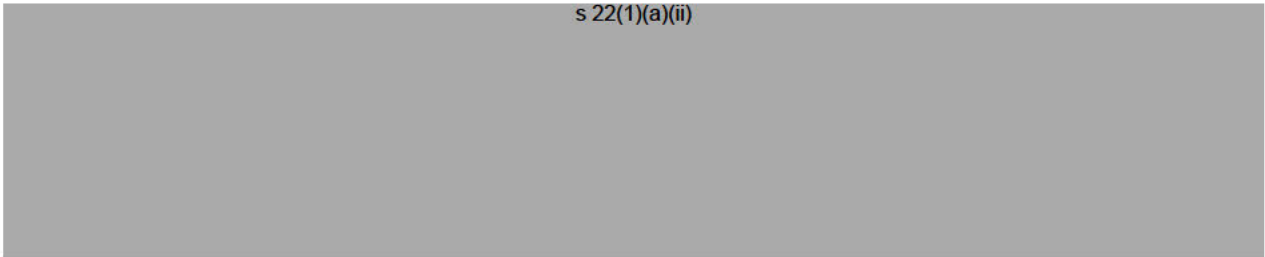


Independent Review

- The Prime Minister announced the terms of reference for the Independent Commonwealth Review into Australia's federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies on 29 December 2025. Details have been published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website.

Other updates (by exception only)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



- The families of the Bondi victims have published an open letter the Prime Minister calling for a Royal Commission. PM&C has undertaken a search and confirmed a copy of the letter has not been formally received.

Briefs and correspondence as at 30 December 2025

- With PMO for action:
 - Response to the Rabbinical Association of Australasia in relation to calls for a Royal Commission (MC25-164913).
 - MPs Ryan/Chaney/ Scamps/ Steggall letter in relation to s 22(1)(a)(ii), call for a Royal Commission s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- On hand in PM&C:
 - The Department is preparing a letter from the PM to NIC agency heads setting out expectations for engagement with the Independent Review.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [Kennedy, Steven](#); [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Exell, Blair](#); [Raman, Padma](#); [Luchetti, Narelle](#); [Eliston, Lisa](#); [Lawson, Ely](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [Crosthwaite, Kerren](#); [redacted] s 47E(d); [redacted] s 47E(d); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Lin, Katy](#)
Subject: Bondi response - daily update - 31 December [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Wednesday, 31 December 2025 6:10:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 31 Dec 2025.docx](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi all

Update as at 31 December 2025 is attached for your information.

[redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EO: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



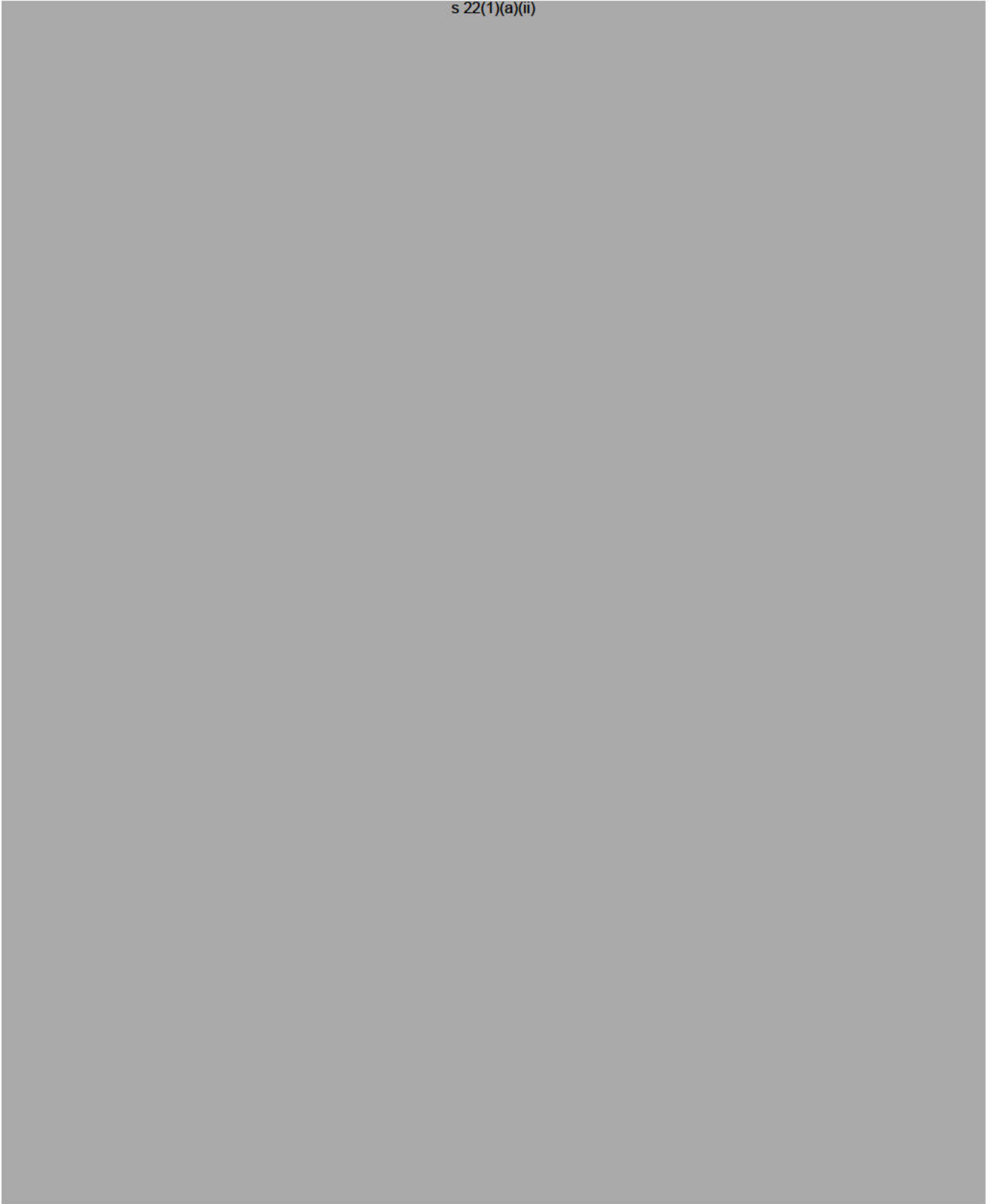


EPROTECTED

Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 31 December 2025

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Independent Review

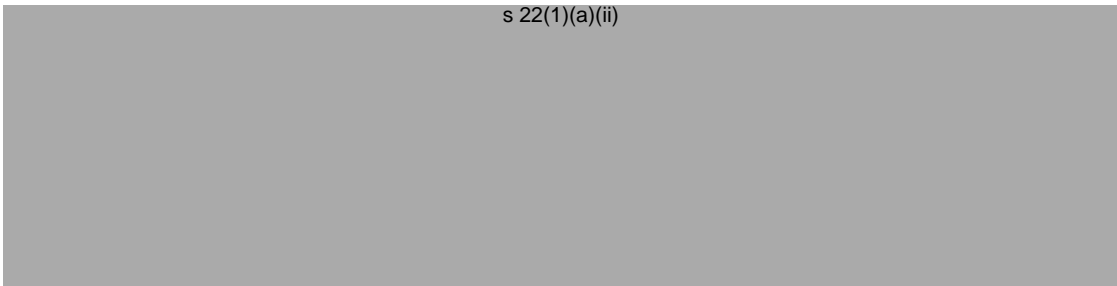
- The Prime Minister announced the terms of reference for the Independent Commonwealth Review into Australia's federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies on 29 December 2025. Details have been published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Briefs and correspondence as at 31 December 2025

- With PMO for action:
 - Response to the Rabbinical Association of Australasia in relation to calls for a Royal Commission (MC25-164913).
- On hand in PM&C:
 - The Department has prepared a letter from the PM to NIC agency heads setting out expectations for engagement with the Independent Review. **PMO is discussing with relevant Ministerial Offices.**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [Kennedy, Steven](#); [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Exell, Blair](#); [Raman, Padma](#); [Luchetti, Narelle](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); [Lawson, Ely](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [Crosthwaite, Kerren](#); [REDACTED] s 47E(d); [REDACTED] s 47E(d); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Lin, Katy](#)
Subject: Bondi response - daily update -1 January 2026 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Thursday, 1 January 2026 6:44:50 PM
Attachments: [Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 1 January 2026.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi all

Update as at 1 January 2026 is attached for your information.

[REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[REDACTED]

Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EO: [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





EPROTECTED

Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 1 January 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Independent Review


- Details of the Independent Commonwealth Review into Australia’s federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies are available on the PM&C website.

ePROTECTED

Briefs and correspondence as at 1 January 2026

- With PMO for action:
 - Response to the Rabbinical Association of Australasia in relation to calls for a Royal Commission (MC25-164913).
- On hand in PM&C:
 - The Department has prepared a letter from the PM to NIC agency heads setting out expectations for engagement with the Independent Review. PMO is discussing with relevant Ministerial Offices.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Exell, Blair](#)
Cc: [Raman, Padma](#); [Luchetti, Narelle](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); [Lawson, Elly](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [Hehir, Martin](#); [redacted] s 47E(d); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Lin, Katy](#)
Subject: Bondi response - daily update -2 January 2026 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Friday, 2 January 2026 6:46:20 PM
Attachments: [Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 2 January 2026.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi all

Update as at 2 January 2026 is attached for your information. [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

EO: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





PROTECTED

Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 2 January 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Independent Review


- Details of the Independent Commonwealth Review into Australia’s federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies are available on the PM&C website.
- **PM&C has received a request from Mr Richardson seeking access to relevant Cabinet records.**

PROTECTED

Briefs and correspondence as at 2 January 2026

- With PMO for action:
 - Response to the Rabbinical Association of Australasia in relation to calls for a Royal Commission (MC25-164913).
- On hand in PM&C:
 - The Department has prepared a letter from the PM to NIC agency heads setting out expectations for engagement with the Independent Review. PMO is discussing with relevant Ministerial Offices.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Exell, Blair](#)
Cc: [Raman, Padma](#); [Luchetti, Narelle](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); [Lawson, Elly](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [Hehir, Martin](#); [redacted] s 47E(d); [redacted] s 47E(d); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Lin, Katy](#)
Subject: Bondi response - daily update - 4 January 2026 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Sunday, 4 January 2026 6:18:09 PM
Attachments: [Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 4 January 2026.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi all

Update as at 4 January 2026 is attached for your information. [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

EO: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



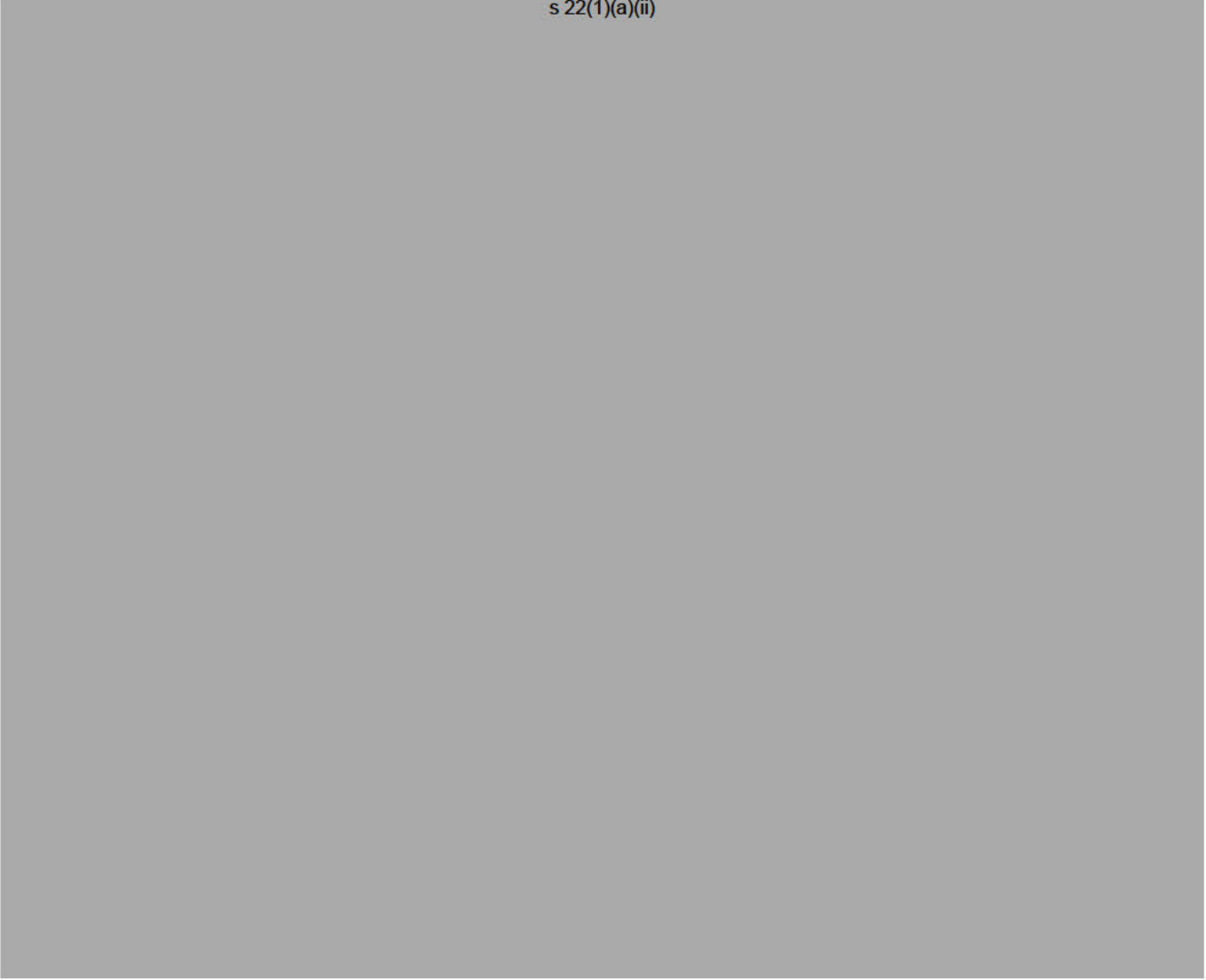


PROTECTED

Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 4 January 2026

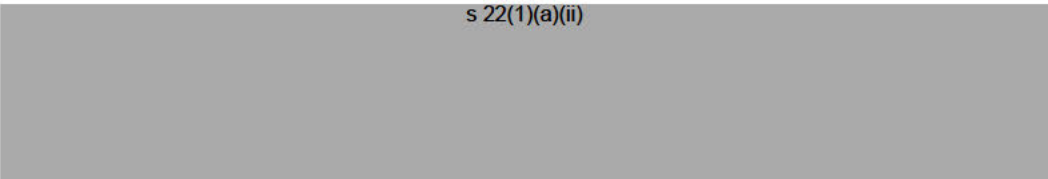
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Independent Review

- Details of the Independent Commonwealth Review into Australia’s federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies are available on the PM&C website.
- PM&C has received a request from Mr Richardson seeking access to relevant Cabinet records.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)




PROTECTED

Briefs and correspondence as at 4 January 2026


- With PMO for action:
 - Response to the Rabbinical Association of Australasia in relation to calls for a Royal Commission (MC25-164913).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



- On hand in PM&C:
 - The Department has prepared a letter from the PM to NIC agency heads setting out expectations for engagement with the Independent Review. PMO is discussing with relevant Ministerial Offices.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



From: [Doherty, Greta](#)
To: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Exell, Blair](#)
Cc: [Raman, Padma](#); [Quigley, Janet](#); [Elliston, Lisa](#); [Lawson, Elly](#); [Morony, Kendra](#); [Hehir, Martin](#); [redacted] s 47E(d)
[redacted] s 47E(d); [Henty, Philippa](#); [Lin, Katy](#)
Subject: Bondi response - daily update - 5 January 2026 [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Monday, 5 January 2026 7:18:46 PM
Attachments: [Daily update - Bondi terror attack - as at 5 January 2026.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi everyone

Update as at 5 January 2026 is attached for your information. [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[redacted]

[redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Greta

Greta Doherty (she/her)
First Assistant Secretary – Social Policy Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

I work on Ngunnawal Country
1 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
p. [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. greta.doherty@pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au

EA: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

EO: [redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





PROTECTED

Bondi Attack – update key issues

As at 5 January 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Independent Review

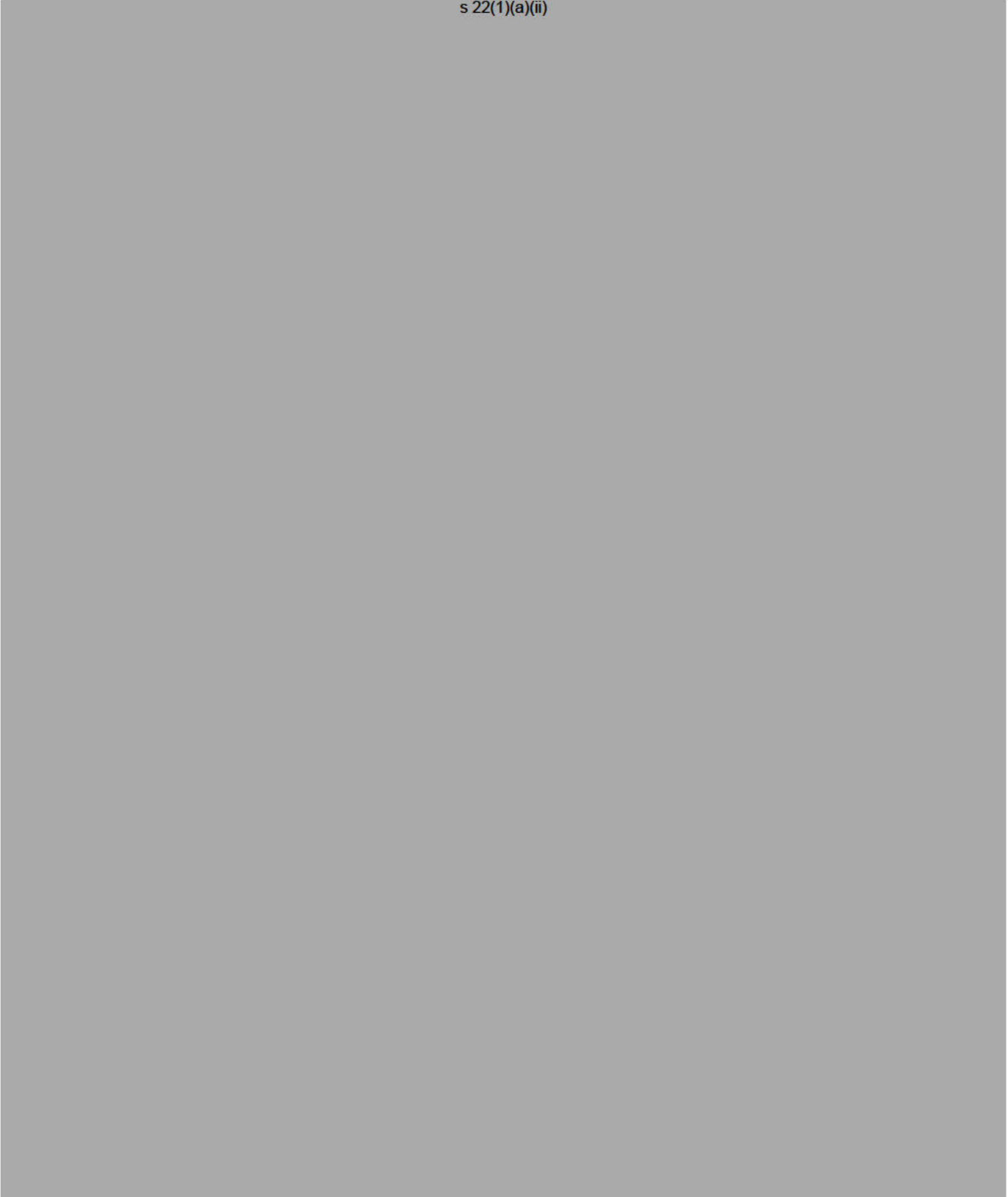
- Mr Richardson has written to relevant agency heads seeking their support with his review; he will commence meetings with agency heads from 6 January 2026.

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- Accommodation for the review secretariat is ready; secretariat lead (Ms Tara Inverarity from the Attorney-General's Department) commenced 5 January 2026.
- Contractual arrangements for Mr Richardson, Mr Sheehan and Mr Baxter are well advanced.
- PM&C has received a request from Mr Richardson seeking access to relevant Cabinet records.


s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Briefs and correspondence as at 5 January 2026


- With PMO for action:
 - Response to the Rabbinical Association of Australasia in relation to calls for a Royal Commission (MC25-164913).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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- On hand in PM&C:
 - The Department has prepared a letter from the PM to NIC agency heads setting out expectations for engagement with the Independent Review. PMO is discussing with relevant Ministerial Offices.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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