

Kyam Maher MLC
Attorney-General

Zoe Bettison MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Friday 2 September 2022

Government to support Parliamentary inquiry into Neo-Nazi symbols

The Malinauskas Labor Government will move to establish a Parliamentary committee inquiry into the use of Neo-Nazi symbols.

This inquiry comes after the National Socialist Network was photographed giving a fascist salute in front of the Adelaide Holocaust Museum, and other recent vandalism involving anti-Semitic stickers.

Issues to be looked at include:

- The symbols used to identify and promote Neo-Nazi groups, and options to prohibit their display
- The activities of Neo-Nazi and other ideologically-motivated extremist groups in South Australia
- Discrimination faced by Jewish South Australians and other targeted groups within the community
- Prohibitions on such symbols in other jurisdictions

The Victorian, New South Wales and Queensland Parliaments have all undertaken inquiries into bans on the displays of Neo-Nazi symbols.

The Hon Sarah Game MLC will be supported by Labor to Chair the Legislative Council select committee.

Quotes attributable to Kyam Maher

The Labor Government is committed to ensuring that there is no place for hate-motivated violence in South Australia.

I thank Sarah Game MLC for her advocacy on this important issue, her collaborative approach, and for bringing this issue to the floor of Parliament.

It is essential that a legislative response is immune from constitutional or other legal challenge, and the proposed committee will be well placed to consider these issues.

I look forward to working with colleagues across the Parliament to investigate the best way to stamp out these vile actions.

Quotes attributable to Zoe Bettison

The Government of South Australia condemns any action or commentary that invokes hatred, or encourages any religious or racial discrimination including anti-Semitism.

Here in South Australia we are incredibly fortunate to have a proud, well-connected, vibrant multicultural community. We are committed to a society that values, respects and supports diversity.

Whatever the differences in our cultural background, our ethnicity or our faith, we all come together as one to support our community.

We have recently arranged for SAPOL to provide a briefing to members of the South Australian Multicultural Commission about ideologically motivated violent extremism and the work they are undertaking to identify and where appropriate prosecute individuals involved in behaviours such as this.

We will soon be releasing our Multicultural Charter for public consultation and we would encourage Universities, Student Organisations, Business and Not-For-Profits to actively participate in the consultation process.

The South Australian Multicultural Charter provides the opportunity to set the foundation for new Multicultural policy directions for the future of our State.