

From: [Julian Laurens](#)
To: [PRL Independent Review Secretariat](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: PWDA - Simplified clarification of response from roundtable - Review of criminal law protections against the incitement of hatred
Date: Friday, 3 October 2025 12:56:53 PM
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Dear Secretariat

[Independent review](#) of criminal law protections against the incitement of hatred in NSW

I would like to extend again thanks from PWDA to you all and the Chair for an excellent Roundtable discussion on 1 October 2025 (9:30am – 11am – session #17).

We particularly appreciated the genuine and respectful understanding and sensitivity extended towards people with disability.

I thought I would take the opportunity to outline again very briefly a couple of key points in response to the agenda questions.

2. Does the criminal law adequately protect against the incitement of hatred towards all vulnerable groups in NSW? If not, how could the criminal law better protect against the incitement of hatred towards these groups?

The criminal law does not provide adequate protection against the incitement of vilification or hatred for people with disability in NSW. Publicly threatening or inciting violence on grounds of disability should be a criminal offence. Section 93Z of the *Crimes Act 1900* should be amended to include disability as a ground for protection.

4. Would reforming criminal law protections against the incitement of hatred towards vulnerable groups assist with promoting social cohesion in NSW?

PWDA believes amending Section 93Z of the *Crimes Act 1900* to include disability as a protected ground would assist in promoting social cohesion in NSW. It sends a powerful normative message to the community as to community standards of acceptable behaviour. It promotes visibility of people with disability.

Furthermore, amending Section 93Z to include people with disability signals strongly to the disability community directly that they are recognised, that they have rights, and that they are valued members of the community.

We would hope that a Section 93Z amended to include disability would help to reduce instances of violence, vilification, and hatred against people with disability. We note that NSW Police should seek to work closely with the disability community to identify how the protections can be delivered in practice, in a way that supports the rights of people with disability to live free from violence.

5. Could reforming criminal law protections against the incitement of hatred towards vulnerable groups have potentially negative or unintended consequences? If so, are there any further safeguards that could reduce this risk?

In the case of people with disability, we see no negative consequences. We see an opportunity for NSW Police and the wider community to work more closely with the disability community and build a more inclusive and safe society for all. PWDA would like to see more supports put in place to assist people with disability to access legal assistance and exercise their legal rights to bring a matter to the attention of NSW Police.

If PWDA can be of any further assistance, please reach out.

Thanks for the opportunity to send you this email.

Kind regards,

Julian

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Julian Laurens

Senior Policy Officer | People with Disability Australia

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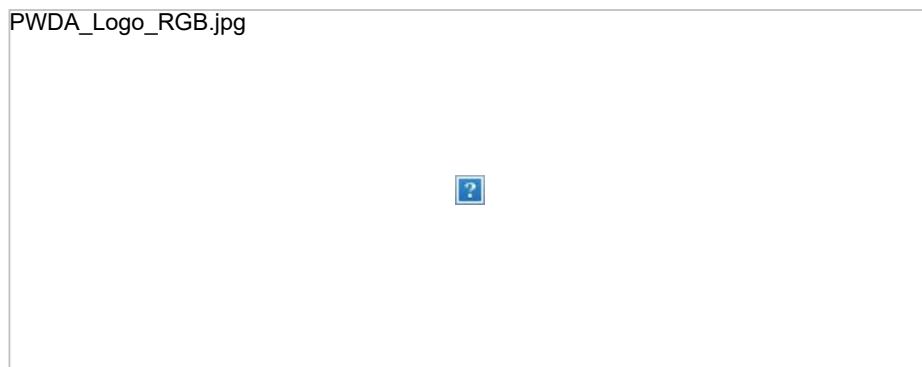


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