

## Response to question on notice

### Questions on Notice Paper No 8

27 June 2025

### Question No. 520

**Leanne Castley MLA:** To ask the Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries —

1. What measures is the Government taking to protect ACT businesses from ethnically or religiously targeted disruption, given reports that a business in central Canberra has repeatedly been targeted by pro-Palestine demonstrators because the business owners are Jewish.
2. Will the Government extend the 50 metre exclusion zone imposed for certain government facilities to businesses.

**TARA CHEYNE MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The ACT has a strong framework to protect individuals from unlawful discrimination and vilification, including serious vilification.

Section 67A of the Discrimination Act 1991 makes it unlawful to incite hatred toward, revulsion of, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of a person or group of people on the grounds of race and religious conviction, among other attributes, other than in private. If a person or group of people has concerns that they have been subjected to vilification, they can make a complaint to the ACT Human Rights Commission. If the Commission is unable to resolve the complaint, they can request the complaint be referred to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal for determination.

Serious vilification is an offence under section 750 of the Criminal Code 2002 and applies to threatening acts. If a person has concerns that they have been subjected to serious vilification, they can contact ACT Policing and make a report.

Protections against vilification support the right to equality and non-discrimination under section 8 of the Human Rights Act 2004.

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2. The ACT Government is not currently considering creating a new exclusion zone scheme for businesses in relation to protests.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Tara Cheyne MLA  
Attorney-General**

**Date:** 21/7/25

This response required 1hrs 00mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$103.11