

Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

Submission No: 21
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

I firmly oppose the proposed amendments to Queensland's firearms legislation for the following reasons:

Firearms Prohibition Order Scheme Introduction: While we acknowledge the importance of ensuring public safety, the introduction of a firearms prohibition order scheme raises concerns regarding individual rights and due process. Such a scheme could potentially lead to unjust restrictions on law-abiding citizens without sufficient evidence or legal recourse.

Verification Process for Purchasing Small Arms Ammunition: While ensuring responsible firearm use is crucial, imposing a verification process for purchasing small arms ammunition could create unnecessary barriers for legitimate firearm owners and enthusiasts. It risks infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens without effectively addressing the root causes of firearm-related crimes.

Reform of the 'Fit and Proper Person' Test: We oppose the proposed reforms to the 'fit and proper person' test as they risk disproportionately penalizing individuals who may have committed minor offenses in the past, without considering rehabilitation or mitigating circumstances. Expanding the types of serious offenses captured and introducing a new category of disqualified persons could lead to arbitrary judgments and unfair treatment.

Increase in Maximum Penalty for Possessing a Knife in Public: While we support measures to deter knife-related offenses, an increase in the maximum penalty for possessing a knife in public may not effectively address the underlying issues contributing to knife crime. Harsher penalties on law-abiding citizens alone are unlikely to address the complex social, economic, and behavioral factors driving such offenses.

In conclusion, we urge the government to reconsider these proposed amendments and instead focus on evidence-based approaches that prioritize public safety while respecting the rights and liberties of law-abiding citizens. Any legislative changes should be carefully crafted to ensure they effectively address the root causes of crime without unduly restricting individual freedoms. Thank you for considering our concerns.