

Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

Submission No:	001
Submission By:	Australian Multicultural Action Network Incorporated
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public



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SUBMISSION TO THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (QLD)

Inquiry into the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

Submitted on behalf of the Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN)

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Date: 11/02/2026

1. Executive Summary

The Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission on the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* ("the Bill").

AMAN supports the Bill in principle and urges its passage, subject to strengthened community safeguards, prevention measures, and protections against racial profiling.

We recognise and commend the Queensland Government for taking a proactive stance in confronting antisemitism and tightening firearm controls. These are necessary steps in protecting lives, democratic values, and social cohesion.

AMAN supports the intent of the Bill:

- to confront antisemitism as a real, rising, and corrosive threat to social cohesion, and
- to strengthen safeguards to prevent firearms falling into the hands of terrorists, extremists, and serious criminals.

However, we argue that legislation alone is insufficient. Laws must be accompanied by prevention, education, community partnership, and trust-building - particularly with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

Our submission advances three central propositions:

1. **Safety and belonging are interdependent.** A safer Queensland is one where Jewish communities feel protected, and where all multicultural communities feel trusted rather than surveilled.
2. **Prevention must sit alongside enforcement.** Stronger gun controls and anti-hate measures should be paired with early intervention, de-radicalisation, and community education strategies.
3. **Queensland can lead nationally.** This Bill presents an opportunity for Queensland to set a gold standard for how jurisdictions can simultaneously tackle hate, extremism, and violence - without marginalising communities.

We also note that AMAN has previously made submissions to the Federal Government on related legislation, including the *Combating Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026*. Our perspectives in this submission build directly on that national engagement and experience.

2. Engagement with the Bill's Key Provisions

AMAN has carefully considered the key elements of the Bill, including provisions relating to:

- strengthened penalties for hate-related conduct and antisemitic behaviour;
- enhanced firearm licensing and background checks;
- expanded powers to prevent high-risk individuals from accessing firearms; and
- measures to disrupt extremist networks that pose threats to public safety.

We broadly support these reforms as necessary and proportionate responses to contemporary risks.

However, we caution that enforcement mechanisms must be accompanied by safeguards to ensure they do not unintentionally stigmatise or alienate law-abiding multicultural communities.

Effective public safety must be both **firm and fair** - protecting vulnerable communities while preserving trust between government, police, and the public.

3. About AMAN

AMAN is a national, grassroots multicultural organisation committed to:

- social cohesion
- interfaith understanding
- inclusion of seniors, migrants, refugees, and CALD communities
- public safety and community wellbeing
- constructive engagement with governments on law reform

Our work is grounded in lived experience, community leadership, and a belief that diversity is Australia's greatest strength when nurtured with respect and mutual responsibility.

As one of Australia's most culturally diverse states, **Queensland has both a responsibility and an opportunity to model inclusive, community-centred approaches to public safety** - and AMAN is committed to partnering with the Government in this effort.

4. AMAN's General Position on the Bill

We support the Bill in principle, subject to the following key refinements:

Area	AMAN Position
Tackling antisemitism	Strong support
Strengthening gun controls	Strong support
Punitive-only approach	Concern
Community safeguards	Need strengthening
Prevention measures	Need expansion

We believe the Bill is a necessary step, but it must be accompanied by a broader social compact that addresses fear, prejudice, misinformation, and radicalisation at their roots.

A purely punitive approach risks treating symptoms rather than causes - whereas a prevention-led strategy builds long-term safety.

5. Antisemitism: A Threat to All Communities

Antisemitism is not only a Jewish issue - it is a democratic issue.

When hatred against Jewish Australians grows, it signals a wider erosion of trust that eventually targets other minorities, including Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Asians, and migrants.

We therefore recommend that the Bill be framed not just as a response to antisemitism, but as part of a broader commitment to **zero tolerance for hate against any community**.

Recommendations – Antisemitism

Recommendation 1: Establish a Queensland Anti-Hate Taskforce

The government should create a permanent, independent body that:

- monitors hate incidents across Queensland, including regional areas;
- advises on policy development and legislative reform;
- partners with community organisations and faith leaders;
- conducts public education campaigns in schools and communities; and
- reports annually to Parliament.

This taskforce should include Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, First Nations, migrant, and multicultural representatives.

We propose that the Taskforce meet quarterly and publish transparent public reports to build confidence and accountability.

Recommendation 2: Fund community-led interfaith programs

Legislation should be paired with funding for:

- interfaith dialogues and peace-building initiatives;

- school-based anti-hate education programs;
- youth leadership and mentorship initiatives; and
- community storytelling projects that humanise diversity.

AMAN is ready to partner with government in delivering such programs across metropolitan, regional, and remote Queensland.

6. Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals

AMAN strongly supports tighter controls to prevent firearms from being misused.

However, we caution against approaches that could unintentionally stigmatise certain communities as “security risks.”

Many CALD communities already experience heightened scrutiny in national security contexts. Without careful implementation, strengthened firearm controls could disproportionately affect migrants unfamiliar with regulatory systems.

Public safety must be achieved **without racial profiling, religious stereotyping, or over-policing of migrant communities.**

Recommendations – Firearms and Public Safety

Recommendation 3: Intelligence-led, not community-targeted policing

Firearm enforcement should be:

- intelligence-driven
- behaviour-focused
- risk-based
- not ethnicity-based

This approach protects civil liberties while still targeting genuine threats.

Recommendation 4: Early intervention and deradicalisation

We recommend funding for:

- community-based deradicalisation programs;
- culturally appropriate counselling services;
- mental health support; and
- youth mentorship initiatives.

Violence is often the end point of isolation, grievance, or radicalisation - intervention earlier saves lives.

7. Balancing Security with Social Cohesion

AMAN believes Queensland must reject a false choice between “security” and “multiculturalism.” We need both.

A safer Queensland is one where:

- Jewish families feel safe in synagogues;
- Muslim families feel safe in mosques;
- Migrant communities feel respected by law enforcement; and
- Police feel supported with better tools and public trust.

Recommendation 5: Community–Police Partnership Model

We propose a structured partnership where:

- community leaders meet regularly with police;
- concerns are addressed collaboratively rather than reactively;
- transparency is improved; and
- misinformation is reduced through open dialogue.

AMAN is prepared to facilitate such conversations and serve as a bridge between communities and government.

8. Link to AMAN’s Federal Submissions

AMAN has previously made submissions to the Federal Government on the *Combating Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026*.

Our national engagement reinforces our view that:

- consistent standards across states are desirable;
- community consultation must be central to law reform; and
- prevention is as important as punishment.

We encourage Queensland to align with best national and international practice in addressing hate, extremism, and firearm safety.

9. Why AMAN’s Voice Matters

AMAN brings:

- lived multicultural experience;
- policy credibility;
- community trust;
- practical solutions; and

- a bridge between government and diverse communities.

AMAN has a track record of constructive engagement with state and territory governments, including participation in parliamentary inquiries, multicultural consultations, and community safety dialogues.

This submission reflects not only policy analysis but deep human understanding of how laws impact real families, real communities, and real lives.

10. Summary of Key Recommendations

1. Create a Queensland Anti-Hate Taskforce.
2. Fund interfaith and anti-hate education programs.
3. Adopt intelligence-led policing, not community profiling.
4. Invest in early intervention and deradicalisation.
5. Establish structured police–community partnerships.

11. Conclusion

This Bill is an opportunity for Queensland to demonstrate that it can be both **safe and compassionate, strong and inclusive, firm against hate yet generous in spirit.**

AMAN stands ready to work with the Committee, the Government, and communities to ensure that this legislation not only reduces harm, but builds a more united, resilient, and harmonious Queensland.

We urge the Committee to view this Bill not just as a legal instrument, but as a moral commitment to protect every community and uphold the values that make Queensland - and Australia - great.

AMAN would welcome the opportunity to provide oral evidence to the Committee if invited.

12. Contact Details

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