

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

Submission No: 003
Submission By: South East Zone QCTA Inc
Publication: Making the submission and your name public



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Mr. Martin Hunt MP
Member for Nicklin
Chair
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Via email: JICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au

13th February, 2026

Dear Chair Hunt,

RE: Submission on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

On behalf of the South East Zone Queensland Clay Target Association Incorporated (SEZ QCTA), I am pleased to provide this submission in response to the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* (the Bill), as tabled in the Queensland Parliament.

As President of SEZ QCTA, I represent an incorporated association comprising 13 affiliated member clubs across South East Queensland, collectively serving more than 2,300 licensed clay target shooters. Our clubs include longstanding institutions such as Brisbane Gun Club, Gold Coast Clay Target Club, Toowoomba Clay Target Club, Caboolture Clay Target Club, and Gympie Clay Target Club, among others.

The SEZ QCTA plays a pivotal role in the development of Australia's shooting sports. We are committed to promoting safe, responsible, and inclusive clay target shooting, a discipline that cultivates precision, mental discipline, resilience, sportsmanship, and lifelong values. Critically, we actively identify, nurture, and support the next generation of elite competitors who represent Australia at the highest international levels, including the Olympic Games. Through structured junior programs, expert coaching pathways, inter-club competitions, and zone championships, we provide the essential foundation for progression to state, national, and Olympic selection in Trap, Skeet, and other ISSF disciplines.

Many of Australia's Olympic shooting medalists and representatives contributing to the nation's proud history of gold, silver, and bronze medals in these events have roots in similar grassroots Queensland programs. Sustaining this talent pipeline is vital not only for Australia's continued success on the world stage but also for preserving the cultural and sporting heritage of clay target shooting in our state. Any unintended disruption to genuine, licensed participants could undermine these efforts and diminish Queensland's contribution to Australia's Olympic legacy.

The Management Committee of the SEZ QCTA strongly supports the Bill's primary objectives: combating antisemitism and enhancing community safety by ensuring firearms remain out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. We commend the Queensland Government's common-sense, evidence-based approach, which targets genuine risks without imposing unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens.

In particular, we fully endorse the proposed increases in penalties for gun crimes, as detailed in the amendments to the *Summary Offences Act 2005* and associated provisions. These stronger deterrents will help address illegal firearm possession and misuse, aligning seamlessly with our association's steadfast commitment to public safety and full compliance with Queensland's rigorous weapons licensing regime, one of the most robust in Australia.

Queensland's existing framework already demands genuine reasons for ownership, comprehensive background checks, mandatory safety training, and ongoing adherence for legitimate sporting purposes. Our members, encompassing competitive athletes, recreational shooters, and juniors are genuine licence holders who meet these standards rigorously. They enrich the community through organised events, youth development initiatives, and economic contributions to regional Queensland.

That said, I must state unequivocally that any strengthened Australian citizenship requirements introduced or reinforced under the Bill **must not penalise legitimate sporting shooters who are genuine licence holders**. Our membership includes long-term permanent residents and visa holders who have demonstrated unwavering commitment to safe, lawful participation in clay target shooting over many years. These individuals have successfully passed exhaustive police checks, completed all required training, and actively support our clubs and the sport.

Retrospective or overly restrictive citizenship criteria could unfairly exclude these contributors, erode the inclusivity that underpins our association, and discourage international talent from participating in Queensland's thriving shooting community.

I urge the Committee to apply any such provisions prospectively only, incorporating appropriate exemptions, grandfathering clauses, or transitional arrangements for existing genuine licence holders to preserve fairness and balance.

Quantifying the precise number of affected genuine sporting shooters in the South East Zone is challenging, as we do not require proof of citizenship for club membership or participation, only valid firearms licensing under Queensland law. Nevertheless, SEZ QCTA is prepared to implement practical measures to support and advocate for licence renewals on behalf of non-citizen, genuine sporting shooters within our community.

It is my sincere hope that the Committee recognises that a licensed sporting shooter in Queensland who is not an Australian citizen should never be automatically presumed to pose a criminal or terrorist risk. Our members exemplify responsible citizenship in action through their dedication to a highly regulated, disciplined sport.

In summary, the SEZ QCTA wholeheartedly supports the Bill's emphasis on elevated penalties for gun crimes and its targeted measures against antisemitism and terrorism threats. We value Queensland's pragmatic governance in this space, which stands in constructive contrast to more expansive federal proposals. By protecting the participation rights of responsible sporting shooters, the legislation can deliver enhanced safety without compromising the integrity or future of our sport.

I would welcome the opportunity and make myself available to appear before the committee to elaborate on this submission if deemed helpful to do so.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for allowing our association to participate in this vital legislative process.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Joseph SWANTON
President
South East Zone Q.C.T.A Inc

