

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

**Submission No:** 018

**Submission By:** Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group

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17 February 2026

Committee Secretary  
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Hunt MP

**RE: Fighting antisemitism and keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals amendment bill 2026**

**1. Introduction**

The [Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group \(QHVSG\)](#) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* ("the Bill").

QHVSG is a statewide organisation that has supported individuals, families, and communities affected by homicide for over thirty years. Our submission is informed by decades of experience working with victims and survivors who understand the profound and enduring impacts of violent crime.

We recognise the Government's intent to strengthen community safety, reduce the risk of targeted violence, and address the misuse of firearms.

**2. General Position**

QHVSG supports the overarching objectives of the Bill, including:

- preventing violent crime
- reducing access to firearms by high-risk individuals
- deterring hate-motivated conduct
- protecting vulnerable communities from intimidation and harm

These reforms align with broader national efforts to strengthen firearm regulation and community safety.<sup>1</sup>

We also acknowledge areas where the Bill intersects with human rights, youth justice, and policing powers, and we encourage careful implementation to ensure that reforms enhance community safety without creating unnecessary or unintended harm.

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<sup>1</sup> National Cabinet information: <https://www.pmc.gov.au/national-cabinet>

### **3. Prohibited Symbols and Expressions**

#### **Support**

QHVSG supports measures aimed at reducing the public promotion of symbols and expressions used to incite hostility or violence. These provisions should protect all vulnerable groups, including those targeted on the basis of race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, or other characteristics.

#### **Considerations**

- a. The threshold for conduct that “could reasonably be expected to make a member of the public feel menaced, harassed or offended” may benefit from clearer statutory guidance to ensure consistent application.
- b. The power to prescribe expressions by regulation should be accompanied by transparent reporting to Parliament to maintain public confidence.<sup>2</sup>

### **4. Protection of Access to Places of Worship**

QHVSG supports the introduction of a specific offence for intimidating, obstructing, or hindering access to places of worship. Families affected by homicide often report that targeted intimidation can escalate into violence. Strengthening protections around places of worship—regardless of religion—helps reduce risk and reinforces the right of all Queenslanders to gather safely.

The Bill’s clarification that the offence applies broadly and is “not limited to any specific religion” aligns with principles of fairness and equal protection, which we support.

### **5. Firearms-Related Reforms**

#### **Increased Penalties**

QHVSG strongly supports increased penalties for unlawful possession, supply, trafficking, modification, and reckless discharge of weapons. These offences are closely linked to violent crime, and stronger penalties reflect the seriousness of the harm they can cause.<sup>3</sup>

#### **3D-Printed Firearms**

The introduction of offences for possessing or distributing 3D-printed firearm blueprints is a necessary response to emerging risks. The Explanatory Notes highlight that such weapons accounted for “8% of all firearms categorised by the QPS Ballistics Unit in 2025,” demonstrating the urgency of regulation.

#### **Firearm Prohibition Orders (FPOs)**

QHVSG supports strengthening the FPO scheme, including enhanced search powers for individuals accompanying a person subject to an FPO. This is a practical measure to protect police and the public.

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<sup>2</sup> Relevant legislation: Queensland Criminal Code – Chapter 7A  
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1899-009>

<sup>3</sup> Weapons Act 1990 (Qld):  
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1990-031>

## **Citizenship Requirement**

While we understand the intent to simplify background checks, QHVSG encourages consideration of long-term residents who contribute to Queensland communities but are not citizens. A conditional pathway may be appropriate to ensure fairness while maintaining public safety.

## **6. Expanded Police Powers and Surveillance Thresholds**

Lowering the threshold for controlled operations and surveillance warrants from offences punishable by 7 years to those punishable by 3 years may assist in early intervention. However, such powers must be accompanied by robust oversight to ensure proportionality.

QHVSG recommends:

- a. annual public reporting on the use of these powers
- b. independent review mechanisms
- c. clear criteria for authorisation<sup>4</sup>

## **7. Consideration of Criminal History in Licensing Decisions**

QHVSG supports amendments allowing authorised officers to consider:

- non-recorded convictions
- quashed or set-aside convictions
- discontinued charges
- the circumstances surrounding charges

Victims and families often express concern when individuals with a history of violence or weapons-related behaviour retain access to firearms. The Bill’s approach strengthens community safety while still allowing officers to assess context and relevance.<sup>5</sup>

## **8. Balancing Safety and Rights**

The Bill acknowledges that some provisions may impact individual liberties. QHVSG believes that where the risk of serious harm or loss of life is high, carefully designed limitations can be justified—provided they are proportionate, transparent, and subject to oversight.

We encourage the Government to ensure:

- a. clear operational guidance for police and decision-makers
- b. regular review of the legislation’s operation
- c. ongoing consultation with victims’ organisations and affected communities.

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<sup>4</sup> Relevant legislation: Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Qld)  
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2000-005>

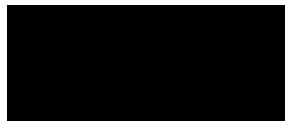
<sup>5</sup> Relevant legislation: Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986  
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1986-005>

## Conclusion

QHVSG supports the intent and many of the specific measures within the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026*. The Bill strengthens protections for all Queenslanders, particularly those at heightened risk of targeted violence.

With careful implementation and robust oversight, these reforms will hopefully meaningfully reduce the likelihood of violent crime and support safer communities.

QHVSG remains committed to working with government, law enforcement, and community partners to ensure that victims' experiences and perspectives continue to inform policy and legislative reform.



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