

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

Submission No: 032
Submission By: Jews for Justice
Publication: Making the submission and your name public

JEW^S FOR JUSTICE

17 February 2025

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

We are Jews for Justice; a collective of Jewish Australians committed to the elimination of all forms of racism.

We are horrified by the Bondi Beach shooting, a violent hate crime targeting Jewish people at a celebration of Chanukah. These events are tragic reminders of the need to address racism and hatred in all forms.

In the aftermath of the attack, we urge the Queensland government **not** to adopt the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 (the Bill)*. To approach antisemitism in isolation from other forms of racism is dangerous and counter-productive to the safety and security of not only Jewish Australians, but of all Australians. Safety cannot be built on selective protection, and efforts must be intertwined with the safety of Muslims, Palestinians, migrants, First Nations people, and other minorities.

The Bill is dangerously flawed in that it conflates Judaism with Zionism. The nature of Jewish identity is complex and often personal; however, it is a religious, cultural and ethnic identity, not a political ideology about nation-state sovereignty. When laws aimed at combatting antisemitism operate in a political climate where criticism of Israel is often labelled antisemitic, it narrows Jewish plurality and entangles Jewish safety with state power. Judaism is not monolithic, and many Jewish Australians oppose Zionism and/or the current Israeli government and its actions.

By conflating Judaism and Zionism, the Bill dangerously positions Israel as a representative of Jews. This risks linking the political and military actions of Israel with those of Jewish faith. Israel is accused of [war crimes](#) and [genocide](#), of which the Australian public are outraged, as evidenced by consistent and large public protests. By conflating Judaism and Zionism, the Queensland government risks feeding a false narrative that Jewish people in Australia are responsible for Israel's actions. While there is an ongoing investigation, the Bondi Massacre may prove to have been an example of this. In contrast, Palestinian solidarity movements across the country understand the difference between Judaism and Zionism - with Jewish speakers at most Free Palestine rallies, and coalitions built in solidarity towards a shared future of justice for all.

We are also concerned that the Bill will silence genuine and important political speech regarding Israel's conduct. Australians are entitled to freedom of political expression. It will counterproductively silence criticism, and risks inciting the vilification of Jewish people who reject Zionism or criticise the state of Israel and its actions. Among other things, Jewish people who have

spoken out against Israel's genocide in Gaza have been accused (by other Jews) of being Nazi collaborators¹, which is considered very offensive.

Tools designed to fight hatred must not erode civil liberties, weaken democratic protections and target minority groups. The Bill's framework for banning organisations based on hate activity is concerning and unclear, with 'extremism' a politically motivated label in this political climate. It also sets up the expansion of proscriptive powers over time and the impingement of association rights. Further, the expansion of visa cancellation powers based on vague assessments of 'spreading hate' will enable politicised exclusions, which fall disproportionately on Muslim, brown and other racialised communities. Our Jewish history as migrants and refugees calls us to stand against a politicised immigration policy.

Despite these extreme measures, the Bill will not work to combat antisemitism and may even contribute to its rise. Anti-racism efforts may do more harm than good when they are seen to protect a 'dominant in-group', which is exactly what the Bill attempts to do. Antisemitism can only be diminished by ongoing work to combat all forms of racism. Research² has found that anti-racism measures are more likely to be effective when they are based on evidence, built on collaboration, have clear objectives and messaging and are subject to rigorous evaluation. In contrast, the Bill is not evidence based, raising concerns it is politically motivated rather than considered policy.

Australia has seen a rise in all forms of racial vilification — anti-immigration rallies led by far-right and neo-Nazi groups, targeted attacks and threats against First Nations people at spaces such as Camp Sovereignty, and online and offline abuse to racialised and religious minorities. Antisemitism must be addressed - but it must be addressed in a comprehensive, whole-of-society response to all forms of racism and religious hatred.

The timing of this Bill, together with the limited time for the public to respond, is particularly concerning. This moral panic exploits the murder of Jews to silence critique of Israel. We therefore urge the Queensland government not to cave to political pressure but to consider a constructive approach that makes all communities safer, upholds democratic principles and strengthens multiculturalism.

Yours sincerely,

Jews for Justice

¹ Refer to [submissions](#) 52, 157, 233, 420, 444 to the 'Commission of Inquiry into Anti-Semitism at Australian Universities'

² Ben et al (2020) [Contemporary anti-racism A review of effective practice](#)