

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

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Queensland Progressives party
1 Westlink Ct, Darra QLD 4074
queensland@progressives.org.au

Queensland Progressives is a nascent political party currently undergoing registration in Queensland. We are focused on the issues that affect all Queenslanders, from homelessness and violence against women, to climate change and affordable housing. Our big-picture thinking and focus on policy over politics sets us apart from others, and we will push Queensland politics away from the culture-wars and cheap team sports mentality that we currently see in today's political landscape.

Queensland Progressives strongly oppose the newly introduced *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* as it is currently written. There are some elements that we conditionally agree with, such as the outlawing of 3D printing and blueprints for firearms. What this bill appears to be written to do however is to support a Zionist Jewish and Zionist Christian viewpoint that Queensland Progressives find to be antithetical to our state's long held democratic freedoms and rights. We note the deliberate conflation of Zionism with Judaism, and as our state leader Edward Carroll is himself a Jewish person who has spoken out stridently against Zionism we fear the path this Bill is leading towards would end up with Jewish people like Edward being criminalised for speaking out in support of Palestine and against the ongoing genocide.

Key concerns:

- The Bill places unchecked powers within the Attorney General's office that have no counter balances. The ability for abuse with the powers as written is too great and far too broad to be allowed to proceed.
- The explanatory notes appear to conflate Judaism with Zionism, which is patently incorrect. Not all Jews are Zionists, and the vast majority of Zionists are not Jewish.
- There is an undue focus on the movement supporting Palestine, and as a result the true danger of far-right agitators such as neo-Nazis and white supremacists are slipping away from scrutiny. Criticising the violence currently perpetrated by Israel and calling for an end to genocide is not anti-semitic.
- There is a strong risk to social cohesion coming from alienating many different minority groups. There is a significant risk of state-sponsored violence being used to stifle legitimate criticisms, not just on Palestine but many other areas of concern around the world and in Australia.
- If phrases supporting Palestinian self-determination can be outlawed, then phrases that support other movements could be as well. For example, "always was always will be" or "free Tibet" could be banned. This would put Queensland amongst the worst anti free speech offenders in the world.



- It appears that the protections for religious buildings are geared specifically to protect the usage of some Jewish spaces by Zionist organisations to hold “real estate” seminars that seek to further the dispossession of Palestinian land. If this is the case it will be an egregious breach of standards and will be opposed in the strongest possible terms by the anti-Zionist Jewish community in Queensland.

Queensland Progressives supports a free Palestine, and it is patently clear that denying and destroying this movement is the true goal of this legislation. Progressives members were amongst the over 50 thousand Queenslanders that marched across the Victoria Bridge on August 24th 2025. This government cannot idly ignore the will of the clear majority of Queenslanders. We also note that the particular phrase that has been singled out by this government, namely “from the river to the sea” is also used by nationalist extremists in Israel, and should these laws go ahead we will be prosecuting a case against those groups. This would include the ruling party Likud, which uses the phrase as a direct call for ethnic cleansing against Palestinians and others.

In conclusion, Queensland Progressives cannot support this Bill. The events of December 7th in Bondi are unconscionable and will be forever burned into our national psyche. That tragedy, however, had nothing to do with the Palestine solidarity movement. It is an act of moral bankruptcy to conflate the tragedy at Bondi with Palestine, and if this is little more than an act of cheap political opportunism then it is a disgrace to the victims and their families. Legislation must be slow and considered, and this Bill is neither. It must be withdrawn and rewritten to better serve the people of Queensland and protect social cohesion and our inalienable human rights to free speech and right to protest.

Edward Carroll
State President
Queensland Progressives

queensland@progressives.org.au
1 Westlink Court, Darra QLD 4074