

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

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Submission By: John Anderson

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To: Relevant Queensland Minister and Department, and the Commonwealth consultation or committee

From: John Edward Anderson

Queensland resident

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1. Purpose of this submission

I am writing as a Queensland resident to oppose the proposed new national firearm laws. I support evidence based public safety reforms. However, the changes being discussed appear broader than necessary, are not clearly linked to the main sources of violent harm in Australia, and risk increasing cost and red tape for lawful owners and regulators without delivering meaningful safety benefits.

2. Australia already has strong firearm regulation

Australia's existing framework is already built around strict licensing, genuine reason and genuine need requirements, firearm registration, safe storage, and ongoing suitability checks. These principles are set out in the National Firearms Agreement and implemented through state and territory laws and policing. ([acic.gov.au][1])

Queensland's licensing system is substantial and actively administered. As at 2 February 2026, Queensland Police report 210,702 licensees, 232,526 issued licences, and 1,159,498 registered weapons. ([Queensland Police Service][2])

Any proposal to further tighten rules should clearly demonstrate what gap exists that current powers cannot address, and why a targeted fix is not sufficient.

3. The available national homicide data does not justify broad new restrictions

The Australian Institute of Criminology's National Homicide Monitoring Program shows that firearms are not the most common weapon used in homicide incidents. In 2023 to 24 there were 262 homicide incidents nationally, with 31 involving a firearm. In the same year, knives or other sharp instruments were used in 88 incidents. ([Australian Institute of Criminology][3])

In Queensland specifically, the same report shows 47 homicide incidents in 2023 to 24, with 5 involving a firearm and 19 involving knives or other sharp instruments. ([Australian Institute of Criminology][3])

If the policy goal is to reduce homicide, the national data indicates that focusing primarily on lawful firearm owners is unlikely to address the main drivers of homicide weapon use. Broad measures aimed at licensed ownership risk missing the problem while consuming regulatory capacity.

4. The policy focus should be on illegal access, theft, trafficking, and emerging risks

If government considers further action necessary, the reforms should be tightly targeted at the pathways that create real risk, including:

A. Firearm theft and secure storage enforcement

Queensland Police already publish processing timeframes and operate a mature licensing system. ([Queensland Police Service][2])

Rather than imposing new blanket restrictions, resourcing should prioritise compliance activity that directly reduces diversion of firearms into illegal markets, including storage audits and follow up enforcement where non compliance is identified.

B. National information sharing and operational capability

A national register and improved information sharing may be useful if implemented as an operational policing tool, not as a justification for broader restrictions on lawful ownership. The Commonwealth states the National Firearms Register is intended to give police near real time information on firearms, owners and licences. ([Department of Home Affairs Website][4])

If governments proceed, the key test should be whether it measurably improves frontline decision making and interdiction of prohibited persons, rather than adding paperwork for compliant owners.

C. Prohibited persons and high risk behaviour

Where risk is concentrated, reforms should focus on stronger and faster mechanisms to disqualify and disarm prohibited persons, including those involved in violence, coercive control, serious organised crime, and firearms trafficking, using clear thresholds, procedural fairness, and strong enforcement.

D. 3D printed and untraceable firearms

This is a genuine emerging risk and should be addressed through targeted offences, investigative capability, and upstream controls on supply chains and distribution networks, rather than broad measures applied to people already inside the regulated system.

5. Why broad new national restrictions are not needed

A. Lack of a clear problem statement tied to licensed owners

The homicide data shows firearms are a minority weapon type compared with knives and other sharp instruments. ([Australian Institute of Criminology][3])

Without clear evidence that licensed owners are the source of the harm the reforms aim to prevent, broad restrictions are unlikely to be proportionate.

B. Diminishing returns and resource diversion

More rules, more categories, more approvals, and more conditions can reduce regulator and police capacity to focus on the highest risk matters, including prohibited possession, theft, trafficking, and serious violence. The compliance system works best when it is enforceable, properly resourced, and targeted.

C. Unintended impacts on legitimate Queensland use cases

Queensland has large regional and rural communities where lawful firearms are used for primary production, vertebrate pest management, and sporting clubs. Reforms that add blanket caps, excessive administrative requirements, or poorly defined tests can impose high costs with little safety gain, and can reduce compliance by making lawful pathways unreasonably burdensome.

6. Practical recommendations

If the Queensland Government is asked to support national changes, I urge Queensland to advocate for a targeted package instead of broad new restrictions:

7. Invest in theft reduction and diversion prevention, including storage compliance audits and rapid follow up enforcement where needed.

8. Strengthen intelligence led action against trafficking networks and prohibited persons.

9. Implement national data sharing only where it improves operational policing outcomes, with clear governance, privacy safeguards, and measurable performance indicators. ([Department of Home Affairs Website][4])

10. Maintain the core National Firearms Agreement principles, including genuine reason and genuine need, and avoid measures that primarily add cost for compliant owners without addressing illegal access. ([acic.gov.au][1])

11. Publish an evidence base before legislating, including a clear explanation of what harm is being targeted, what share of that harm is attributable to licensed ownership, and why existing powers are insufficient.

12. Conclusion

Queensland and Australia already have strong firearms laws and an established regulatory framework. The most recent national homicide data indicates that firearms are not the predominant weapon in homicide incidents, and in Queensland knife related incidents are far more common than firearm related incidents. ([Australian Institute of Criminology][3])

For that reason, broad new national restrictions are not warranted. Any reforms should be narrowly targeted at illegal access, theft, trafficking, and emerging risks, with clear evidence and measurable outcomes.

Signed

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of John Edward Anderson.

John Edward Anderson

[1]: https://www.acic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-03/1996%20National%20Firearms%20Agreement.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com "1996 National Firearms Agreement.pdf"

[2]: <https://www.police.qld.gov.au/units/weapons-licensing> "Weapons Licensing | QPS"

[3]: https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-03/sr52_homicide_in_australia_2023-24.pdf "Homicide in Australia 2023–24"

[4]: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/criminal-justice/firearms/national-firearms-register?utm_source=chatgpt.com "National Firearms Register"