

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

Submission No: 097

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SUBMISSION TO THE JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
COMMITTEE RE FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM AND KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE
HANDS OF TERRORISTS AND CRIMINALS AMENDMENT BILL 2026

I refer to the Committee's call for submissions in respect of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 (Bill).

I support the Bill as it is a measured and proportionate response to the dreadful and tragic event at Bondi Beach last year and recognises that responsible licensed firearms owners are not the pariahs of society or potential terrorists.

I submit that the Committee recommend the Bill be passed because the Bill properly seeks to attack the true cause behind the Bondi Beach tragedy, namely anti-Semitism and seeks to try and attack the terrorist and criminal elements of society and avoids overreacting to the various misinformation, half-truths or uninformed comments against firearms and responsible licensed firearms owners that have been made since the Bondi Beach tragedy.

In support of my submission I comment and advise as follows:

1. I have been a licensed shooter for over 5 years and am a member of a registered sporting gun club in Brisbane.
2. Although I am a relatively inexperienced sporting shooter I have been dismayed by the volume of misinformation, half-truths or uninformed comments against firearms and responsible licensed firearms owners from people or groups who have no idea of what they are talking about or are deliberately engaging in misinformation campaigns to advance their own ideologies or viewpoints. In support of that statement I comment and advise as follows:
 - One of the comments made by several politicians after the Bondi Beach tragedy was "There are now more than 4 million firearms in Australia - more than at the time of the Port Arthur massacre nearly 30 years ago." In my view this comment is clearly trying to imply there has been a massive increase in gun numbers which is responsible in some way for the Bondi Beach shootings. This is not borne out by the statistics.
 - **1996:**
 - Number of registered firearms in Australia: Approximately 3.2 million
 - Population of Australia: 18.3 million
 - **2025:**
 - Number of registered firearms in Australia: 4.078 million
 - Population of Australia: 27.5 million
 - The statistics above do not suggest at all that there has been a "massive" increase in gun numbers over the last 30 years either on a straight numerical basis or per capita basis (population numbers). In fact the numbers held on a per capita basis has decreased over that period.

- Another comment made by several politicians post the Bondi Beach tragedy was “We know that one of the terrorists from the weekend’s attack held a firearm licence and had six guns. There is no reason someone living in the suburbs of a major Australian city needed this many guns.” This comment displays a lack of knowledge of lawful competition shooting in registered sporting clubs in Queensland.
- From a sporting shooters viewpoint firearms owners may have several firearms because they need different types of firearms to enable them to participate in the different types of competitions sporting clubs offer.
- For example I have several different types of rifles and pistols to allow me to do the different types of competition shooting my club and other clubs offer. For example generally a .22 calibre rifle would not be suitable to shoot a paper/ corflute target at say 300 meters in a club competition. Another example is generally a .223 calibre bolt action rifle would not be suitable to shoot a paper/ corflute target at say 700 meters in a club competition ;
- Some firearms owners may have large numbers of firearms because they are legitimate collectors of firearms;
- Comments were made late last year by the Prime Minister that “perpetual firearms licenses” would be removed. In Queensland there are no perpetual firearms licenses issued to club shooters. Licences are issued with a fixed term (usually up to 5 or 10 years) and have to be renewed;
- Pictures of one of the Bondi Beach terrorists showed him wearing an ammunition belt around his waist that allows for the storage of individual bullets in the belt. This image morphed into a suggestion the terrorist had a “belt fed gun” implying it was an automatic or semi- automatic weapon fed by ammunition in a belt that was fed into the gun like a machine gun. That is incorrect. The carrying of ammunition in a waist belt still requires the user to manually load individual bullets into a gun using their hands. There is no automation involved. The terrorist could have just as easily carried the bullets in his pockets and would have had the same degree of access.

I think the singling out by some people and groups, of responsible licensed firearms owners as the pariahs of society and potential terrorists is uncalled for and unfair. Legislation can never stop crime, it can only punish it.