

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

Submission No: 168

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Dear Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee,

I am writing to provide my submission regarding the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important piece of legislation.

First, I would like to acknowledge the core intent of the Bill. I appreciate that the Queensland Government has clearly aimed the proposed reforms at preventing criminal misuse of firearms and addressing antisemitism, intimidation, and extremist behaviour. I welcome the focus on targeting individuals who pose a genuine risk to community safety rather than imposing unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding firearm owners. This distinction is important and is recognised throughout the Bill.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the Queensland Government's decision to resist external pressure from both the Federal Government and the New South Wales Government to recategorise certain firearms. Maintaining a balanced and evidence-based approach to firearms regulation is vital, and I commend the Government for ensuring that responsible licence holders are not disproportionately impacted by changes driven by other jurisdictions.

One area of the Bill I wish to comment on specifically is the proposed requirement that Queensland weapons licence holders must be Australian citizens. While I understand and support the objective of strengthening licensing suitability, I respectfully suggest that an exemption be considered for New Zealand citizens who are residents of Australia. Given the historically strong relationship between our two countries, the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement, and the long-standing integration of New Zealand citizens within Australian communities, it would seem reasonable to exclude them from this requirement in the same way certain other legislative frameworks recognise their unique status.

Aside from this point, I am generally supportive of the remainder of the Bill. The strengthened penalties for weapons-related offences, the focus on preventing violent extremism, and the modernisation of provisions relating to hate symbols and religious protections all appear to be well-considered reforms that contribute meaningfully to public safety.

Thank you for considering my submission. I appreciate the Committee's work on this Bill and the opportunity to provide feedback.