

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

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Law-abiding firearms owners continue to bear the consequences of repeated government failures that have nothing to do with lawful firearm ownership, safety, or responsibility.

Successive governments have responded to acts of violence by imposing further restrictions on licensed firearms owners—people who are already vetted, trained, registered, and monitored—rather than addressing the actual causes of these failures. This approach misdirects responsibility and undermines trust in policy-making.

Firearms do not commit crimes. People do.

When violent acts occur, they are the result of human decisions, failures in intelligence sharing, failures in immigration and visa enforcement, failures in monitoring known risks, and failures in timely intervention. Shifting blame onto tools rather than addressing these systemic breakdowns is ineffective and misleading.

Of particular concern is the pattern of governments allowing non-citizens or immigration applicants—some with known histories of violence, extremism, or criminal behaviour—to remain in the community, only for tragedy to later occur. When warning signs are missed or ignored, it is not licensed firearms owners who have failed the public; it is government systems and decision-makers.

Licensed firearm owners in Australia are among the most heavily regulated civilians in the country. They undergo background checks, waiting periods, mandatory training, safe storage inspections, and ongoing compliance requirements. Despite this, they are repeatedly penalised for crimes they did not commit, using firearms they did not possess, under circumstances they had no control over.

This cycle achieves three things:

It distracts from meaningful accountability for government failures.

It erodes civil liberties for compliant citizens.

It fails to improve public safety.

Public safety is best served by:

Strong border and immigration controls.

Effective intelligence gathering and information sharing.

Proper monitoring of individuals known to pose risks.

Targeted enforcement against criminal misuse—not blanket punishment of lawful ownership.

Policy must be evidence-based, not reactionary. Emotional responses following tragic events are understandable, but legislation made in haste often creates long-term harm while delivering no measurable safety benefit.

Law-abiding citizens should not be made responsible for government mistakes.

If governments wish to restore public confidence, they must accept responsibility for their own failures and address them directly, rather than repeatedly targeting compliant, regulated members of the community who have demonstrated responsibility and respect for the law.