

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

Submission No: 250

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Regarding the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* — Public Submission

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As an Australian citizen and Queensland resident, I strongly oppose the newly introduced *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026*, as it currently exists. I unequivocably condemn all forms of racism and bigotry in Australia, including antisemitism, and I acknowledge the genuine threat it plays to Jewish life in Australia. However, it is my firm belief that this bill is not the answer to issue of rising antisemitism. Rather this bill represents a severe government overreach, one that threatens the long cherished Australian freedom to speech and legitimate political dissent, particularly advocacy for Palestinian human rights.

My Primary Concerns Are As Follows:

- The Bill severely overreaches on Australian freedoms to political communication, which are an implied right of the Australian constitution. This encroachment would be a net negative on Australian societal cohesion — a stated aim of the Bill — in that it creates significant inequality in how political discourse is able to be carried out in public and online, as well as promoting greater government distrust among Australians.
- The Bill also enables the government to supersede the existing judicial checks in what is and is not considered criminal regarding political speech. This poses an undoubtable risk to freedom of speech even beyond the issues of racism and antisemitism, and enables both the present and future Queensland governments to arrest all speech it finds disagreeable.
- The Bill, despite its highly sensitive nature regarding both bigotry and democracy, has been rushed to parliament with less than a week allocated for public comment. This doubtless will enable lapses in sound, democratic judgment, and will cause the Bill to fail in adequately serving all of the groups it is supposed to protect, should it be signed into law.

For the above reasons, I strongly opposing the signing of *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* into law. While its intentions to keep Jewish Australians safe are noble, the practical application of this Bill is nothing short of severely misguided. Suppressing freedom of speech is not the solution to antisemitism. Rather, it is the sincere and thorough application of empathy and education in all levels of our society that will truly bring an end to not just antisemitism, but all forms of discrimination and bigotry.

— Alastair Tomkins