

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

Submission No: 252

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I wholeheartedly believe that ALL Queenslanders have a right to be free from ALL forms of racism, hatred and discrimination.

I believe that the proposed Bill should address Racism in its entirety. This would ensure a proactive, comprehensive and evidence informed roadmap to combating systemic and interpersonal racism and hate. This approach would benefit the majority of Queenslanders many of whom are from CALD or Indigenous backgrounds. Battling racism in ALL its forms is an evidence based approach to creating community safety and social cohesion.

Understanding racism should be grounded in a framework of intersectionality, community centered and grounded in truth telling. The explanatory notes of this Bill are incorrect by stating this is in response to the most deadly act of terrorism in Australia's history and does not account for the multiple experiences of massacres and trauma experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people during the past 200 years of colonization.

Prohibiting particular expressions and symbols is open to interpretation - based on someone feeling menaced, harassed or offended. This is very subjective and could be used in a vexatious way. This legislation is also up to the interpretation (and discretion) of the Minister without any due process or review by subject matter experts. Does a 'relevant group' mean people or does it apply to a state or a government? Democracy is founded on the ability to peacefully question or disagree with each other as well as disagree with states/governments - without fear or favour.

This proposed bill only benefits a small number of Queenslanders, is too vague and very subjective. There is also no inbuilt mechanisms for review and appeal (eg due process). Due to its subjectivity, its implementation would tie up Qld courts in interpreting - this time should instead be spent on addressing important issues such as domestic and family violence and child protection matters.

The Human Rights Commission has a Anti Racism framework which was released in 2024 which could be utilised by the Qld government.

A law fighting racism should be separate to Gun laws. It is not clear why these have been included together.

I agree that Firearm licensing decisions should be rigorous - and MUST include review of domestic and family violence history and information sharing across states and territories.

With regard to Youth Justice Act - children should be given access to programs that rehabilitate rather than punish (such as Adult Crime, Adult Time) This approach is also not inline with International Law and Human Rights. Similarly by addressing Domestic and Family violence through a multi faceted approach, children exposed to trauma will be kept safe, supported from an early age and subsequently diverted from any criminal trajectory.

With regard to amendments to Police Powers, it is vital to ensure there continues to be external review and investigation of unethical or unlawful police behaviors such as seen by NSW community recently. The Qld Community expects our Police Service to have a focus on de-escalation and partnering with communities in finding solutions. There needs to be wide expert opinion sought on the impacts of increased surveillance and surveillance devices more widely. which would be missed in a rushed passing of this legislation