

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

Submission No: 273

Submission By: Anthony Rawson

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

To: The Queensland Parliamentary Committee considering the "Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026"

Chair,

It has come to my attention that the hasty process of the abovementioned Bill—and the public opportunity to comment—is being quietly, disgracefully, rushed to a close.

So: regarding the "Fighting Antisemitism" components of this overly broad Bill: restricting freedom of political expression is a contravention of the implied rights of every Australian citizen. Moreover, privileging the position of one group in the name and spirit of the Bill is a clear restriction of general and human rights to political belief.

Banning the phrases identified by the Premier, "from the river to the sea" and "globalise the intifada", would suppress peaceful, sincere protest and drive real antisemitism underground. This is the opposite of the Bill's supposed aim. Antisemitism, Islamophobic and all other racist, sectarian and sexist speech should be free to be publicly denounced and deplored, not hidden to metastasize in secret.

On the display of symbols: the argument to suppress these is infantile, reducing citizens to the level of a child who believes that closing their eyes renders themselves invisible and others non-existent. Surely everyone who sees that a group's ideologies are hateful—the monstrosity of Nazism or rabid madness of Islamic State, for example—should want them to be clearly visible to all. Legislating to compel public blindness to such threats is breathtakingly foolish.

Regarding the "Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals" part of the Bill: the proposed laws will not achieve that aim. Its primary effect will be to recast "non-citizens" as "Terrorists and Criminals", which is wholly at odds with the history of such crimes. Australian citizens commit more gun crime (gross and prorata) than non-citizens; therefore, if the Bill's sincere aim was to massively reduce such crime it would make more sense to ban citizens from gun ownership. Instead, the proposed rules are simply a sop to racism, far-right fantasies of strength and echoes of the White Australia Policy.

The Federal Government's proposed buy-back scheme and gun restrictions are insufficient, but would at least have some positive effects; the "Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026" will only make matters worse, and bring us more horrors like Port Arthur, Christchurch, Wiembilla and Porepunkah, not fewer. Even the terrors of Bondi wouldn't have been prevented by the proposed Bill, making it clear that the actual motive lies elsewhere.

The committee should recommend that:

- All parts of the proposed Bill be rejected
- The Federal Government's buyback scheme and gun restrictions be adopted, and
- Queensland apply additional reviews upon fitness for gun ownership and possession for all citizens, residents and visitors.