

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

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Submission regarding the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

I am submitting on behalf of members of the Australasian Living History Federation (ALHF), and of the wider Queensland historical reenactment community to respectfully comment on the recent Amendment Bill introduced as a response following the tragic events at Bondi, Sydney, particularly the need for clarity in certain matters.

This submission is made with particular reference to the potential impact on members of the **Australasian Living History Federation**, a not-for-profit association representing historical reenactment hobbyists.

The ALHF has over 2000 members across Australia, nearly 500 of which are resident in Queensland.

These individuals participate in educational, cultural, and heritage activities, including museum displays, public commemorations, and historically accurate reenactments. Many members lawfully possess deactivated, replica, or licensed historical firearms strictly for heritage purposes.

It is worth highlighting that a significant proportion of our 20th century member groups represent Australian Light Horse Troops and other Australian military units. They take on an important role around the country in remembrance events in honour of our fallen. Their ability to accurately and authentically depict those we honour, and the ability to carry responsibly to these and educational events will be significantly impacted by severe limitations to firearms possession.

The ALHF is in support of this Bill to address issues around public safety, however, we hold concerns around the possible restrictions for re-enactment activities. We outline those concerns below.

Citizenship Requirement for Weapons Licences

The draft Bill proposes requiring Queensland weapons licence holders to be Australian citizens, subject to limited exceptions.

Many historical reenactment participants are permanent residents who contribute significantly to Australia's heritage and educational sectors. Public statements by state officials have suggested permanent residency may be sufficient, yet the draft wording appears to restrict eligibility to Australian citizens only.

We therefore request:

- That it is made clear how this provision would affect existing licence holders who are not citizens;
- That permanent residents remain eligible for licensing;
- That exemptions are included for individuals engaged in recognised cultural, educational, or historical activities, specifically that military or historical re-enactment is included as a genuine reason for possession of a weapon.

Without such clarification, this provision risks excluding legitimate and low-risk participants from heritage activities.

Consideration of Historical Offences in Licensing Decisions

The Bill proposes expanding the scope of an individual's history that may be considered in licensing decisions, including offences that are spent or not recorded.

We recommend that:

- It is made clear whether there will be a defined timeframe for relevance (for example, a standard review period such as five or ten years).
- Detail is provided regarding how proportionality will be applied to ensure minor or historic matters do not permanently disqualify otherwise suitable applicants.

For reenactment participants, who often undergo extensive background checks and operate under strict safety oversight, clarity in this area is essential to avoid uncertainty and inconsistent application.

Mandatory Reporting by Clinicians

Public statements indicate that clinicians may be required to report patients they consider at higher risk of committing violence involving a weapon.

While we recognise the importance of public safety, we are concerned about the lack of clarity regarding:

- How clinicians determine such an evaluation.
- What objective criteria or guidelines will apply.
- Whether assessments may be based on brief consultations rather than sustained clinical evaluation.

Members of the Australasian Living History Federation represent a responsible, highly regulated, and culturally valuable community. Their activities support public education, historical preservation, and community engagement.

We respectfully request that the Government provide further clarity and consider appropriate exemptions, transitional arrangements, and proportional safeguards to ensure the Bill does not unintentionally restrict legitimate historical activities while pursuing acknowledged public safety objectives.

The ALHF can be contacted via president@alhf.org.au or alhf@alhf.org.au, and I am available on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,
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