

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

Submission No: 313
Submission By: National Council of Women of Queensland Inc.
Publication: Making the submission and your name public

RE: Call for Submissions - Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 Committee

Patron: Her Excellency The Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM Governor of Queensland

Who we are:

The National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ) is a non-party-political, non sectarian not-for-profit umbrella organisation which has a number of affiliate women's organisations and associate members. All female members of Parliament are offered complimentary membership as are our Bursary Recipients in their first year.

What we do:

With a mission to raise awareness women as to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and their participation in all aspects of community life, NCWQ advocates for all women in Queensland through broadly humanitarian and educational objectives.

The NCWQ mission is underpinned by 5 key goals to:

- Unite associates and societies of women, and of men and women, into an organisation for mutual counsel and cooperations
- Work for the empowerment of women and families and to promote equal status for women in law and fact
- Develop policies and responses on behalf of women on a state-wide basis
- Act as a voice on issues and concerns of women at state and regional levels
- Link with the women of Australia and International Council of Women through the National Council of Women of Australia and contribute to the implementation of their plans of action and policies

NCWQ focuses on gender equity within Queensland and its regions however there is sometimes overlap at a National level. NCWQ is affiliated with the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA) and the International Council of Women and as such are aligned to and must uphold their goals and objectives of gender equity, empowerment and education of women.

Please find below a joint Media Statement from Australia's Peak Womens Organisations for consideration. As a State Council affiliated with the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA), NCWQ has had input into this statement and wish to share it with the Committee. I write to you on behalf of the National Council of Women of Queensland Management Committee.

We commend the Committee for responding so quickly however the tight timeline has not been conducive to consulting widely with those affected or providing a strong evidence based response to the proposed Bill. As such we call on the Committee to delay given there is now to be a National Response.

Regards
Sandy Smith

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joint Statement from Australia's Peak Women's Organisations

As Leaders and National Presidents of BPW Australia (Business and Professional Women Australia), the National Council of Women Australia, Soroptimist International Australia, and Zonta Australia, the peak women's organisations in Australia with a long history of advocacy for women's rights and human rights, we write together at a time of profound national grief.

As organisations committed to human rights, peace, and the wellbeing of women and girls, we unequivocally condemn this violence and reaffirm our commitment to inclusion, compassion, and community safety for all.

Gillian Lewis, President of BPW Australia, said violence motivated by hate has no place in Australia.

"Leadership at times like this means standing together to protect human rights, dignity, and the safety of every community," she said.

In the wake of the most devastating terrorist attack of the 21st century in Australia, people of all cultures and faiths are coming together to mourn. We extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to Jewish communities across Australia, acknowledging the profound distress

caused by the horrific terrorist attack on Hanukkah celebrations at Bondi on 14 December. Fiona Dorman, President of the National Council of Women Australia, said the tragedy underscored a shared responsibility across society.

"Our hearts are with Australia's Jewish communities. This moment reminds us of the responsibility we all share to reject division and to actively foster understanding, empathy, and respect," she said.

We stand in solidarity with all communities who are hurting and reaffirm our shared commitment to dignity, safety, and mutual respect.

Australians are mourning the loss of innocent lives and reflecting on the devastating impact this violence has had on individuals, families, and communities. This tragedy has deeply shaken our nation and caused immense pain to those directly affected, as well as to Australia as a whole. There should be no place in Australia for hatred or violence directed at Jewish communities, or at any community.

Terry Maunsell, President of Soroptimist International Australia, said history showed the importance of collective leadership.

"Australia is strongest when leaders act together in moments of crisis. This is a time for unity, compassion, and decisive action to ensure all communities feel safe," she said.

We are deeply shocked and saddened by the violent attack targeting those attending a Hanukkah event at Bondi Beach. This moment calls for unity, empathy, and care. We call on our leaders to work together in unity for the sake of all Australians.

Across the country, Australians are demanding more for and from their nation: to remember lives lost, to recognise acts of bravery, and to call for reflection and positive action from those in positions of power.

Bridget Mather, Chair of Zonta Australia, said women's organisations had a critical role to play in moments such as this.

"Women's organisations have a vital role in calling out hatred and strengthening social cohesion. We must confront antisemitism and all forms of racism while reaffirming our commitment to inclusion, peace, and community safety," she said.

This is a time for national leadership - including from politicians and community leaders at all levels - to actively promote unity. It is not a time for divisive or politicised commentary, but for fostering understanding, empathy, and community, and for taking appropriate national action.

As women's organisations, we recognise the vital role civil society plays in fostering compassion, promoting human rights, and supporting communities in times of crisis. We advocate for and celebrate equity, diversity, respect, and inclusion for all.

In honouring those whose lives were lost, we reaffirm our shared commitment to building a safe, inclusive, and respectful Australia. Australia must actively reject racism in all its forms, with an urgent focus on addressing antisemitism, while also recognising the importance of confronting islamophobia, fascism, and discrimination against migrants and First Nations peoples - particularly where it involves threats, hatred, or violence.

Australians remember that following the Port Arthur massacre, Australians came together and our political leaders worked as one to provide solace, strength, and hope. Australia needs that same unity to happen again - Now!

We thank leaders who have already stood up and called for unity, and we call on all Australians to contribute to a culture of respect and care, so that our nation may heal and move forward together.

Signed,

Gillian Lewis

President, BPW Australia

Fiona Dorman

President, National Council of Women Australia

Terry Maunsell

President, Soroptimist International Australia

Bridget Mather

President, Zonta Australia