

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

Submission No: 341

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Publication: Making the submission and your name public

To the Committee,

I write to respectfully request that, as part of the current review of the Weapons Act 1990 (Qld), consideration be given to legalising the possession of pepper spray for lawful personal self-defence in Queensland.

Other Australian jurisdictions have legalised pepper spray for self-defence:

- 1) Western Australia legalised pepper spray in the late 1990s under regulated conditions.
- 2) The Northern Territory recently legalised pepper spray following the reported success of its 2025 trial program.

These jurisdictions provide a practical and contemporary reference point demonstrating that regulated access can operate without widespread misuse.

Pepper spray is internationally recognised as a non-lethal deterrent. It provides:

- 1) A temporary incapacitating effect.
- 2) A means of escape rather than retaliation.
- 3) A lower risk alternative to improvised or potentially lethal methods of self-defence.

Many women in Queensland, including my wife and her friends – all mothers of young children – are increasingly concerned about personal safety. They are not seeking confrontation or escalation. They are seeking a lawful, non-lethal and proportionate defensive option.

Given the demonstrated experience in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, it is reasonable for Queensland to examine:

- 1) A regulated model of access.
- 2) Age restrictions (e.g. 18+).
- 3) Criminal penalties for misuse.
- 4) Restrictions on carry in sensitive locations.
- 5) Potential training or safety awareness requirements.

Legalising pepper spray would not weaken community safety. Properly regulated, it may enhance it by:

- 1) Providing vulnerable individuals with a lawful defensive option.
- 2) Reducing reliance on improvised or unlawful weapons - such as blunt objects or knives.

Offering a measured, non-lethal deterrent aligned with proportional self-defence principles.

Queensland should carefully review the data from other Australian jurisdictions and consider whether continued prohibition remains justified in light of modern community expectations and safety concerns.

Thank you for considering this submission as part of the review process.