

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

Submission No: 377

Submission By: Helen Taylor

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

HELEN S TAYLOR

MOB

QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

SUBMISSION

Dear Members of the Parliamentary Committee,

I am a resident of Magnetic Island, Queensland and I am writing to share a personal account of antisemitism and hate crime that has deeply affected my family here in Queensland.

In 2021, my children were targeted with antisemitic remarks at their high school, Northern Beaches State High School in Townsville. A series of events that left them feeling isolated and unsafe. The details eventually reached QLD Parliament via The Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies and so began the change of Hate Crime and Vilification Legislation. (Image 1)

In September of 2024 I reported that a well known vocal artist had performed at the Northern Australian Festival of Performing Arts (NAFA). This is an annual event spanning a few weeks in Townsville and is well attended and supported. The attached email summarises the content of the complaint. (Images 2 and 3)

More recently, in October 2024, we discovered hateful graffiti at the local skate park on Magnetic Island. This had to be removed three times by Council and I believe that the perpetrator was caught on a covert camera installed by local police. I have to date, never seen an update or been informed who was responsible and what the outcome was, which once again made myself and my children fearful in their everyday lives. On an Island 12km from one end to the other, they were surely walking among us. (Images 4, 5 and 6)

In 2025, I saw a surge in these incidents online, on social media, with explicit hate being shared on Facebook, Instagram, Threads and others. I have included a couple of screenshots of Facebook posts that document the lies and fantasy that are being spread by members of our island community. Keep in mind that our permanent community is only approximately 3000 and as a large proportion are people that were not born on the island, has attracted many from other countries and other communities across Australia. It had a sense of multiculturalism and welcomed any background or culture. However, I believe it has become a microcosm of 2024/25/26 Australia and has shown some of its residents to be divisive and hateful and since October the 7th have felt that the situation in the middle east has given them 'permission' to show their innate hatred of the Jewish people.

Lastly, I am proud to be a Jew but I am also a proud Australian who considered themselves very blessed and privileged to live here, but, with a heavy heart, I am deeply saddened that not only have we lost members of our community in Bondi and have had to grieve in an unimaginable way, these events have profoundly shaken our sense of safety, and I urge the committee to take immediate action to prevent further hate crimes, try and stop the spread of malicious, out of context narratives perpetrated by the media and and protect our vulnerable community.

Respectfully submitted for your attention and inclusion.

Helen S Taylor
of Magnetic Island Community QLD

Image 1



me 23 Apr 2021

to advocacy ▾



...

Good afternoon

Two of my children that attend high school in Far Northern Queensland have been subjected to antisemitic remarks and gestures. These have been brought to the attention of teaching staff and senior faculty and the students responsible have been admonished on an ad hoc basis, but nothing more than that.

Still it continues with comments 'Nazi salutes' and vitriol.

I am deeply saddened that this type of hate is alive and well in Queensland and I can only surmise the students are hearing this at home or through social media.

I would be very grateful in receiving more support by way of legislative change and am happy not to remain anonymous as I suffered as a child as a result of antisemitic bullying.

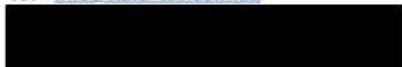
If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Images 2 and 3

Date: Mon, Sep 30, 2024 at 1:53 PM
Subject: Xavier Rudd Concert
To: <info@nafa-tsv.com.au>

...



Dear NAFA organisers

It has come to my attention that during the concert a Palestinian flag was displayed by this artist and that he gave an emotive speech regarding the situation in the Middle East.

I am a resident of Magnetic Island, Townsville, ratepayer and also a Jew and I am disappointed that these political and inflammatory views were allowed during what should have been a community inclusive event. Many people in FNQ associate Israel with the Jewish People and in the last 12 months anti-Semitic incidents have increased by over 1000% in Queensland alone.

We have a right in our North Australian communities to feel safe, but unfortunately the media and some performing artists have used their platforms to promote their political views.

3 Nov 2024

to me, 

Dear Helen

Thanks again for letting us know what happened at the Xavier Rudd concert.

We've been in touch with the organisers of NAFA and received a very supportive response from Festival Director Lachlan Welsh. He advised that NAFA was completely unaware that X Rudd would raise a flag during his performance and, once it occurred, immediately advised the artists' tour manager to ensure it does not occur again.

It's encouraging to know that people take such action to ensure festivals are safe spaces for all Australians.

Thanks again for your action.

Kind regards

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Image 4



Image 5

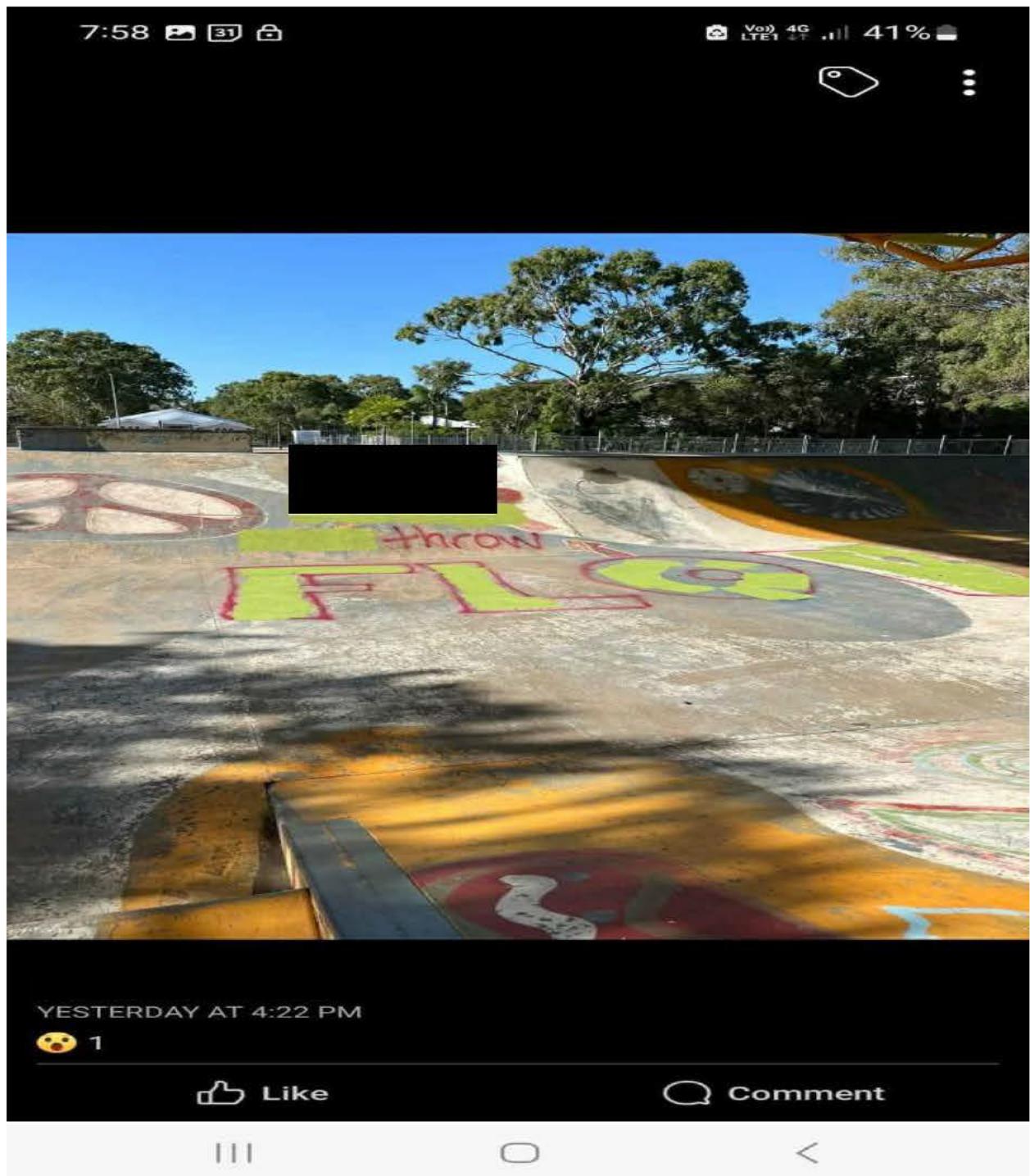


Image 6

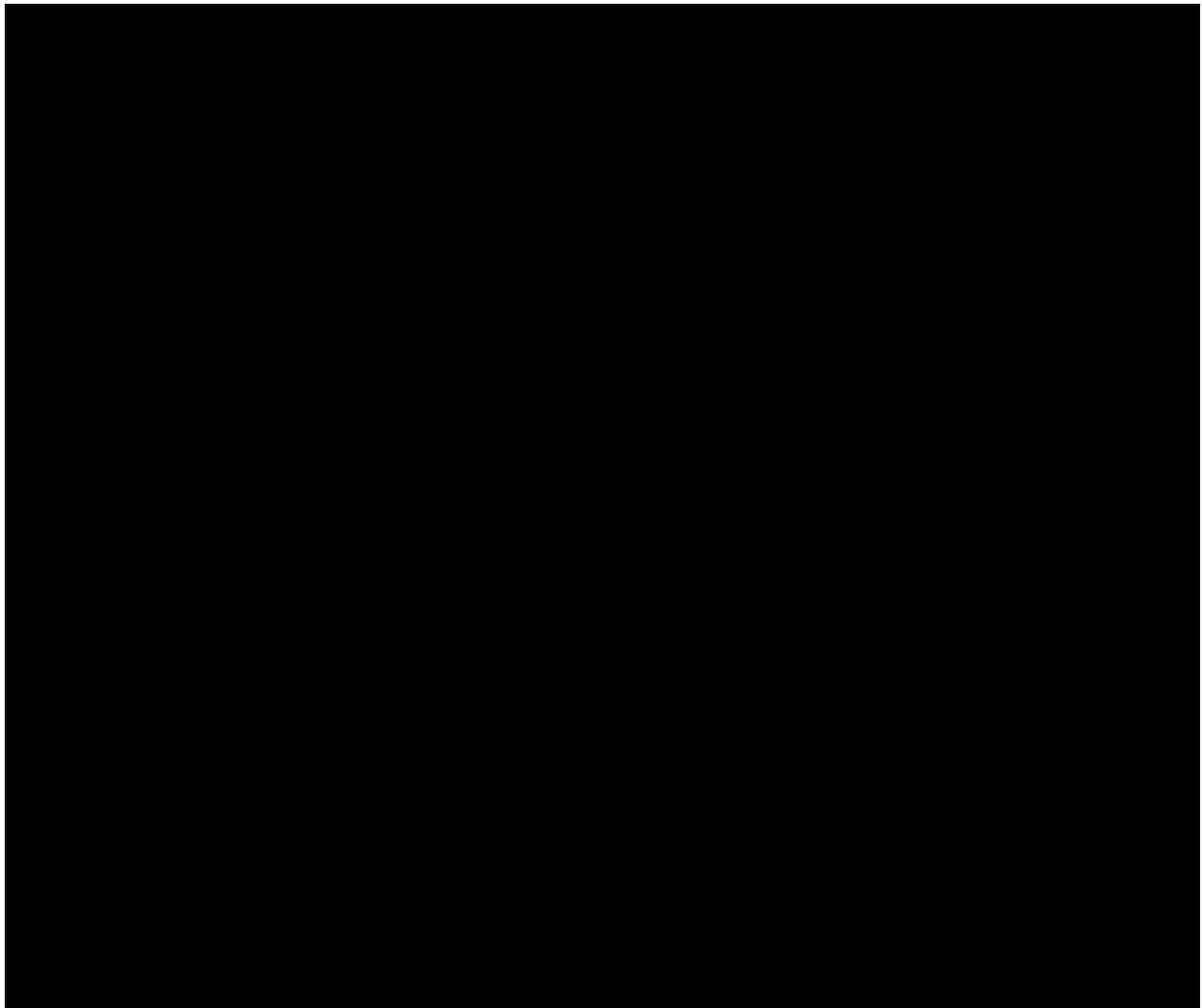
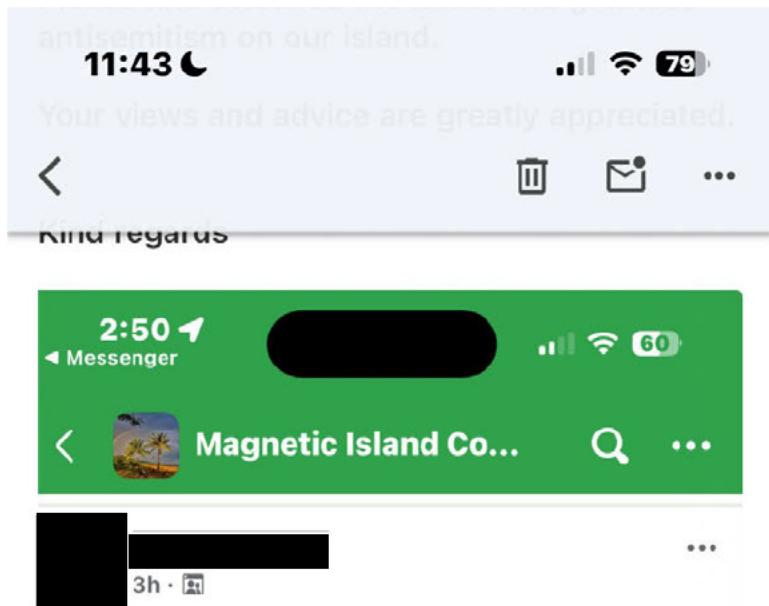


Image 7



Free film screening

Amaroo on Mandalay

Wednesday 13 August 2025, 7pm

Food and drinks available at the Amaroo Bar from 5.30pm

Organised by Friends of Palestine, Magnetic Island



+ 6

2 comments

Angry

Comment

Send

Reply

Forward



Image 8



Are you sickened by the ongoing massacres in Gaza? Do you want to show your rejection of the genocide being committed by the government of Israel? We're organising a fundraising event to help the people of Gaza. It's a chance for Magnetic Islanders and friends to show their support for these people.

We invite you to a morning tea which will be held on Tuesday, June 24th, 10.30 am, at the Arcadia Bakehouse. Donations are by way of a ticket for \$50. Even if you live away from the Island, you can still buy a ticket to support the cause. Please support this event to show the Gazans and the Australian Government that we do not condone what's happening.

Tickets are online at <https://www.trybooking.com/DCKQY>, or can be bought personally from me or Hala. All funds will either be given directly to UNWRA or pooled with the Townsville group working also to assist the Palestinians.

