

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

Submission No: 412

Submission By: [REDACTED]

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**Re: Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals
Amendment Bill 2026**

February 17, 2026

Submission by:

[REDACTED]
member Doykeit & Jewish Voice for Peace
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am a Jewish Australian. I migrated to Australia from the US. I am a mother, teacher, artist and community worker. I am a member of Doykeit - a Magandjin/Brisbane – based collective of antizionist Jews living on unceded Turrbal and Jagera land - and a supporter of Jewish Voice for Peace (USA). My family fled persecution in eastern Europe – Russia, Poland and Germany – and landed in New York. My maternal grandmother spoke English, Yiddish, Russian and Hebrew. My great aunt, also a teacher and a polyglot, lost her husband in WW2 and my father enlisted. My mother always remembered being thrown over a fence in Brooklyn for being Jewish. I mourn the loss of 6,000,000 Jews murdered through the Holocaust and Jewish lives at Bondi.

Doing so, I also mourn the loss of 5,000,000 other lives, people of colour, people with disabilities, Romani people, LGBTQIA+ people, prisoners, civilians and others killed by the Nazis, the loss of Palestinians who lost their land and lives in 1948, as well as all the victims of the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

I note that the Showa in Hebrew and Nakba in Arabic both mean catastrophe.

As uncomfortable as it may be, the facts are that international law has determined that a genocide is taking place in Gaza. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights states:

“GENEVA – Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in a new [report](#) today. The Commission urges Israel and all States to fulfil their legal obligations under international law to end the genocide and punish those responsible for it.”

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/israel-has-committed-genocide-gaza-strip-un-commission-finds>

It is in this light that I encourage all lawmakers to seek to enact and uphold laws that support our international obligations while protecting our democratic rights, including the right to political expression, at home.

I fear that the proposed Bill uses the pretence of delivering public order and safety to enact legislation that, in fact, curtails civil liberties.

While the Bill justifies itself as a necessary measure, I assert that antisemitism, as a form of racism, can only be eradicated by community building dependent of the assertion of rights and equality for all constituents through the delivery of structures of equality and justice.

Due to the extremely small timeframe provided for public feedback, I will provide a few dot points outlining some of my key immediate concerns about this Bill.

Procedural failures:

Lack of authentic public consultation: There was extremely limited opportunity to provide input to this despite claims of public consultation. The Bill was introduced on Feb 10, 2026 and required submissions by Feb 17 after which holding public hearings appear to be scheduled for on Feb 18 (Townsville) and Feb 19 (Brisbane). As of 9:37 on Tuesday Feb 17, there is still no link or information as to how to input to our attend the Brisbane meeting

Lack of transparency re consultation: Failure to disclose advising parties: A mention is made of consulting with Jewish community Elders. Who are they? How were they representative of the Jewish community? What avenues were there for the diversity of Jewish voices to provide input?

Lack of definition of antisemitism: The Bill is entitled and premised on “fighting antisemitism”. However, the it fails to define antisemitism. Reading and using computer-based searching through the following documents (the Explanatory speech, Bill, Explanatory Notes, Statement of compatibility): the word antisemitism was present on most pages in the title only AND while there were references to some symbols and expressions that incite discrimination, hostility or violence, however there is no definition provided of antisemitism or what makes something antisemitic.

This is key to understanding and being able to enact – or enforce – any ensuing legislation. In particular, to ensure that there is no conflation of religion or religious practice and political ideology: Judaism is a religion - practiced by some Jewish people. Zionism is a political ideology.

As a Jewish person I am alarmed at what seems to be a push to support Zionist ideology in my name.

Dot point of general concerns from Jewish Palestinian solidarity perspective:

- The Bill severely restricts freedom of political communication which is an implied right in the Australian Constitution.

- The Bill's scope is broad and creates extraordinary power to proscribe political speech without appropriate democratic scrutiny or oversight. If this isn't rectified future Queensland Governments may have the ability to abuse this power.
- The explanatory notes seem to conflate antisemitism and legitimate political expression that seeks to educate and advocate for the Palestinian people.
- While the Bill itself does not specify Palestinians, the drafting of the bill and the accompanied media releases expose the disproportionate targeting of members of the Palestinian community and those standing against atrocities committed by the Israeli government. Palestinians are also part of a protected group under international law. The explanatory notes ignore Palestinian Human Rights and the right to self-determination.
- The Bill fails to acknowledge the growing public movement in Queensland in support of Palestinian rights. Addressing this legitimate sentiment with dialogue, rather than measures that seek to silence and erase Palestinian history, is essential for social cohesion.
- The Bill risks the erosion of public trust, therefore deepening division, by disproportionately targeting members of a particular ethnicity.
- The rushed nature of the Bill, with less than a week for public submissions, is an affront to the democratic process. Legislation that so significantly impacts minority groups requires deep consultation, not a rushed Bill that undermines the democratic principles of Australian society.

I look forward to hearing your response to my concerns.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]