

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

Submission No: 413
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I am writing because I attended the public hearing regarding the "Justice, integrity and community safety" proposed legislative Bill, and gave a speech outlining my beliefs on the matter. As the time allotted was only three minutes, I only got through half of my content. As you will see from the Hansard notes from the occasion, I was invited to submit the other half of my speech to yourselves, to be considered for inclusion in your records of public expressions on the matter of the proposed bill.

So I am supplying the other half of my speech from the sentence that I had to stop on, on the day. I hope very much that it can be included with the first half of my speech, as I feel very strongly about our Australian rights.

Here is the other half of my speech:

"What also disturbs me is that Australia has a track-record of being one of the most peaceful countries in the world and we can virtually count on one hand the number of unbalanced people who have attacked others, like with the Christchurch shootings and the Port Arthur shootings and the Bondi shootings. So we are already doing things right and do not need our approach to change or we could risk losing this good track-record.

And censorship would probably NOT affect the mind of an unbalanced person who is so unhinged as to commit multiple murders. But it will inhibit the freedom of speech of normal Australians, and the potential for over-zealousness that can create divisions and distrust, mistrust and suspicion between various cultural groups that wasn't primarily there before, and shouldn't be created.

The Jewish Council of Australia speaks particularly well on this.

So of course I think safety is important but we also need to stay calm and not create oppressive legislation based on one event.

Because censorship and a culture of fear certainly will make thousands of Australians feel very unsafe and that is not warranted.

I think we need much more public consultation and to include diverse groups and also Islamic groups. Because I am deeply concerned at the huge rise in Islamophobia which seems to correspond with the ramped up tensions currently present.

Because realistically, I think that ANY kind of Australian, of any religion or ethnicity, can be at risk of an insane person harming others. The shooter at Port Arthur just shot people randomly. The shooter at Christchurch targeted Muslims. And if another unhinged person kills in the future, that could involve a completely different demographic yet again.

So I would ask that our civil liberties and freedoms be kept intact, undamaged and not be removed.

That we strengthen public safety through positive community events, increased dialogues and communication, and positive public education.

Similar oppressive censorship legislation has been pushed through in Britain and is proposed in America, and is equally opposed. The following quote by an American service woman sums up how we are all feeling about this proposed censorship. I believe that this is how the majority of Australians feel as well and I would implore the Australian government to take notice of our strong opposition to these already passed, imposed, and proposed censorship legislation.

Quote:

"My name is [REDACTED]. I am a seventeen year army veteran and former intelligence officer. I swore an oath to defend the constitution against our enemies, foreign and domestic. Do not equate Zionism with Judaism. The modern state of Israel is a political entity established in the 20th century, and is NOT mandated in scripture.

Under this bill, anyone, including Jews, speaking against Zionist actions or against the Israeli genocide against Palestinians could be criminalised. For nearly 2 decades, I believed I was defending freedom, including conscious speech and religious, including conscious speech and religious liberty.

If this bill passes, these freedoms are at risk at home. No law you pass can silence the faithful. No statute can erase the word of God from our hearts. If defending the right to worship, teach and live by conscience brings persecution, or even the threat of death, I stand ready, as thousands of Saints and Christians have before me.

We will not be silenced. Christians, Jews and Muslims stand shoulder to shoulder against the Zionist empire and the genocide in Gaza."

(From [REDACTED] Facebook page.)

To sum up, I request the Australian government not to pass the proposed bill.

Thank you.

Lori Anne Thompson