



Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into Legislation on proposed firearms reform

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Australian Multicultural Action Network Inc

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Supplementary Submission (Extension)

Inquiry into the Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026

Submitted to the ACT Legislative Assembly
Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

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1. Purpose of this Supplementary Submission

This document is submitted as a supplementary extension to AMAN's original submission dated 17 February 2026 to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs regarding the Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026.

Following further review of the proposed legislative framework and community consultations, the Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN) wishes to provide additional reflections and recommendations specifically concerning the proposed Firearms Prohibition Order (FPO) framework contained within the Bill.

Our initial submission focused on broader principles including community safety, multicultural engagement, preventive frameworks, and trust-building between authorities and communities. This supplementary note aims to complement that submission by addressing the operational implications of the FPO scheme and proposing additional safeguards and implementation strategies that enhance both public safety and community confidence.

2. Recognising the Purpose of Firearms Prohibition Orders

AMAN acknowledges that the proposed Firearms Prohibition Order (FPO) scheme is designed to address a critical gap in preventative public safety policy.

The intention of the framework — targeting individuals assessed as posing a significant risk to public safety — reflects a shift in modern public safety policy from reactive enforcement toward risk-based prevention.

Under the proposed framework, individuals subject to an FPO will be prohibited from:

- acquiring, possessing or using firearms or firearm-related items
- attending premises where firearms or related items may be located

Additionally, the framework includes provisions requiring that:

- firearm licences and permits be cancelled
- firearms be surrendered
- police be granted powers to conduct searches to determine compliance

The proposed orders may remain in place for up to three years, unless withdrawn earlier by the Court.

The Magistrates Court must determine that issuing such an order is reasonable, justified and in the public interest, taking into account:

- criminal history
- behavioural indicators
- cultural and social considerations
- human rights implications.

AMAN recognises the seriousness of the threats that such orders are intended to address and supports the preventive intent behind the FPO framework.

At the same time, careful implementation is essential to ensure that such powers are exercised in a manner that protects civil liberties, maintains community trust, and strengthens legitimacy of the law.

3. The Importance of Preventive Public Safety Tools

Modern public safety systems increasingly recognise that risk indicators often emerge before violent incidents occur.

Mechanisms such as Firearms Prohibition Orders can serve as an important preventive intervention, enabling authorities to act before a potential threat escalates.

However, the long-term effectiveness of such mechanisms depends on three critical factors:

1. Public trust in the fairness of the system
2. Transparent and accountable enforcement practices
3. Strong community awareness and understanding of the law

Without these elements, even well-intentioned legislation can unintentionally create fear, misunderstanding, or disengagement within communities.

AMAN therefore encourages the Committee to consider the FPO framework not only as a legal instrument, but also as part of a broader ecosystem of prevention, trust-building and community partnership.

4. Ensuring Human Rights and Procedural Fairness

The Bill appropriately requires that the Magistrates Court consider the human rights implications of issuing a Firearms Prohibition Order.

AMAN strongly supports this provision.

In a multicultural democracy such as Australia, preventive powers must be accompanied by clear safeguards to ensure:

- proportionality
- fairness
- transparency
- the right to review.

We therefore recommend that implementation guidelines emphasise:

- clear thresholds of risk assessment
- transparent documentation of enforcement actions
- accessible appeal and review mechanisms
- clear communication to affected individuals regarding their rights and obligations.

This approach ensures that preventive powers strengthen safety without undermining public confidence in justice institutions.

5. Cultural Competence in the Application of FPO Powers

AMAN would also like to highlight the importance of ensuring that enforcement of the FPO framework is culturally informed and community-aware.

Many individuals within culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities may have limited familiarity with Australian firearms regulation systems.

Without careful communication strategies, there is a risk that:

- individuals may not fully understand the scope of restrictions placed upon them
- misunderstandings may occur regarding compliance obligations
- communities may develop perceptions of unequal enforcement.

To address this, AMAN recommends that the ACT Government develop multilingual guidance materials explaining the FPO framework, including:

- what a Firearms Prohibition Order means
- the legal obligations associated with the order
- consequences of non-compliance
- pathways for legal clarification or assistance.

Providing such information will improve compliance, fairness, and community trust.

6. Accountability and Responsible Use of Search Powers

The Bill proposes enhanced police powers allowing officers to:

- conduct frisk searches of individuals subject to an FPO
- search their homes
- search vehicles and storage facilities
- enter other premises where firearms may be concealed or destroyed.

These powers are significant and must therefore be accompanied by strong oversight mechanisms.

AMAN welcomes the inclusion of safeguards requiring officers to document the reasons for each search and consider privacy impacts.

To strengthen transparency, AMAN recommends that the ACT Government consider:

- internal review processes for FPO enforcement actions
- annual reporting on the use of FPO search powers
- independent oversight mechanisms where appropriate.

Such transparency ensures that preventive powers remain accountable, proportionate, and trusted by the public.

7. Supporting Families and Communities in Early Intervention

Another important dimension of preventive firearm safety is the role of families, community leaders and support networks.

In many cases, concerning behavioural changes are first observed by:

- family members
- friends
- community leaders
- mental health professionals.

However, individuals may hesitate to raise concerns due to fear of stigma or uncertainty about available pathways.

AMAN therefore proposes that the ACT Government explore the development of confidential early-intervention advisory pathways, allowing families to seek guidance when they are concerned about an individual's wellbeing or behaviour.

Such systems could operate alongside the FPO framework and may include:

- mental health referral services
- counselling support
- voluntary firearm safety planning.

These mechanisms focus on prevention and support rather than solely enforcement.

8. Data Transparency and Policy Evaluation

Given that Firearms Prohibition Orders represent a significant preventive tool, it will be important to evaluate their effectiveness over time.

AMAN recommends that the Government consider publishing periodic data reports including:

- number of FPOs issued annually
- reasons for issuance (in aggregated categories)
- number of searches conducted under FPO authority
- compliance outcomes
- review or appeal outcomes.

This data should be presented in a way that ensures privacy protections while enabling evidence-based policy evaluation.

Transparent reporting builds confidence that legislation is achieving its intended purpose.

9. A Balanced and Responsible Approach to Public Safety

Australia's firearms regulatory framework has historically been regarded as one of the strongest in the world.

The ACT has an opportunity to further strengthen this legacy by ensuring that new preventive tools such as Firearms Prohibition Orders are implemented with care, fairness and community partnership.

Public safety is strongest when it rests upon:

- strong laws
- trusted institutions
- informed communities
- early intervention systems.

Legislation alone cannot achieve safety. It must be supported by community engagement, education and prevention strategies.

10. Concluding Reflections

On behalf of the Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN), I respectfully offer this supplementary note to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Our intention is not merely to comment on legislative provisions, but to contribute to a broader conversation about how public safety policy can remain both effective and humane in a diverse society.

Preventive frameworks such as Firearms Prohibition Orders have the potential to enhance safety significantly when implemented thoughtfully.

If guided by transparency, cultural awareness, and respect for human rights, such mechanisms can strengthen not only security but also public confidence in our institutions.

AMAN remains committed to working collaboratively with the ACT Government, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders to ensure that firearm safety reforms are both principled and practical.

Together, we can ensure that the ACT continues to be a place where safety, dignity and community trust go hand in hand.

Submitted respectfully,

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