

INQUIRY INTO ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Esther Frischling

Date Received: 26 March 2025

I would like to submit that I am an active member of the Jewish community, was raised in Jewish schools and synagogues and consider Judaism to be a core part of my identity. I appreciate this enquiry and do think that a rise in Antisemitism is a risk for us all.

Conflating Antisemitism with criticism of Israel makes us all less safe and dampens the meaning of the word. We are at risk of making Antisemitism a boy-who-cried-wolf situation, whereby we cannot truly call out Antisemitism strongly because we have wasted our breathe calling university students, academics, or community members Antisemitic for supporting Palestinians.

Our futures and security are intertwined. Jews in Israel and around the world will only be safe when Palestinians can live in peace and security alongside us.

I want to state that criticism of Israel and support of the Palestinian cause are not Antisemitic. Love of Israel can be an important component of a person's relationship to Judaism, but true love comes with accountability. Protesting the government of Israel is a core part of Israeli culture. There is no reason Jews and non-Jews in Australia should be held to a different standard. Full-throated support of Israel's war in Gaza does nothing to stop Antisemitism globally and in Australia. On the contrary, it puts the Jewish community at greater risk.

Policies addressing antisemitism must protect free speech and avoid reinforcing racial discrimination. Any attempts to silence criticisms of a state or government veer into fascism. Fascism is the greatest threat to Jews throughout history and needs to be avoided at all costs.