

INQUIRY INTO ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

For the last 6 years I have lived in an around the Inner West of Sydney as a foreign Jewish person without having ever experienced any form of antisemitic discrimination. The Sydney I experience day in and day out is a melting pot of cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds that is bolstered by the inevitable social exchange of the people who live here. As a PhD student and casual administrator at the university, I was present during the student encampment action and in no way felt threatened or discriminated against because of my Jewish heritage. The encampment was by all accounts a peaceful place where students were able to share their concerns, ideas and exercise their right to freedom of speech and expression in line with the vibrant democracy this country is meant to bolster, which is what makes it such a desirable place to live in the first place. Since October 7th the only fear I have regularly experienced has come from Zionists, both Jewish and not. If anything, I have felt the need to hide my belief in Palestine's right to self-determination from fellow Zionist Jews who believe in Israel's right to defend itself no matter the [human] cost. Any existential stress I've experienced the last two years is due to the immense grief I feel for the Palestinian people being exterminated in the name of my supposed safety, which I vehemently oppose and disagree with. Israel's continued militaristic aggression is not something I support nor something I have ever wanted to be associated with. Zionism does not represent me. I am what Zionist would call a "self-hating" Jew. Yet I know the history of Zionism is itself steeped in antisemitism, not the other way round.