

INQUIRY INTO ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Jennifer Carleton

Date Received: 1 April 2025

Inquiry into antisemitism in New South Wales
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 – JUSTICE AND COMMUNITIES
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

I would like to address the Inquiry into antisemitism in New South Wales. I have lived as an openly Jewish person in Sydney all my life (I am now 53) and am the grandchild of holocaust survivors.

Response to terms a), b), c) and d):

Jews in NSW will be safer and social cohesion less threatened if:

1. Stop equating being Jewish with support for the state of Israel.
 - a. Antisemitism has always existed - no less in Australia, a nation founded on racism. While racist people themselves are always to blame for perpetrating racist acts, antisemites in Sydney now feel permitted or justified in expressing their hatred openly, *because of Israel's genocide in Gaza in the name of Jews*.
 - b. [Marek Studzinski](#) wrote "The passions aroused by Israel's escalating response to the Hamas attacks have revived centuries-old stereotypes of Jews as both alien and all-powerful, so that the distinction between opposition to Israel and hatred of Jews becomes blurred."
 - c. Perversely, mainstream Jewish organisations, as well as public institutions, the media, politicians and public figures, routinely conflate Jewish identity with support for Israel and Zionism.
 - i. The PM's statement, that "Over 1,200 innocent Israelis died: the largest loss of Jewish life on any single day since the Holocaust,":
 1. Implies the attack on October 7 was an attack on all Jews, rather than on Israelis and the state of Israel.
 2. It plays on collective Jewish trauma from the Holocaust, where there is an emotional identification with Israel as a source of safety.
 - ii. Universities Australia's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism:
 1. Mischaracterises criticism of Israel, where calls for a State in which Palestinians and Israelis have equal rights could be labelled antisemitic.
 2. Misrepresents Zionism as core to Jewish identity: It states that for most Jewish people "Zionism is a core part of their Jewish identity". This is not only inaccurate, but is also dangerous as it risks fomenting harmful stereotypes that all Jewish people think in a certain way.
 - d. I call on Universities Australia and other institutions to adopt the [Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism](#) definition of antisemitism: Antisemitism is

discrimination, prejudice, hostility or violence against Jews as Jews (or Jewish institutions as Jewish).

2. Address racism in all its forms, not antisemitism separately.

- a. Racist people have always acted violently towards racialised groups, especially if someone from that marginalised group themselves acts violently: eg:
 - i. During the [frontier wars](#), whole communities of Aboriginal people were massacred in revenge for Aboriginal men killing Englishmen.
 - ii. In 2014, Sydney's Muslim community was harassed when Man Haron Monis, a Muslim, laid siege to the Lindt Cafe.
 - iii. During the last 18 months violence has been directed towards Sydney's Jews, following Israel's destruction of Gaza.
- b. Antisemitism, anti-Arab racism, anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia are on the rise. Responding to antisemitism separately does nothing to protect the Jewish community from racism.

Response to term h):

The Sydney Jewish Museum is an excellent source of Holocaust education for students, especially the in-person accounts from survivors. Sadly, the advanced age of the speakers means they will not be a highlight of the tour for much longer. Without them, the current exhibits will not be enough to endear Jews to a generation of kids who have watched the obliteration of Gaza. Visible Jewish opposition to Israeli occupation may.

Jennifer Carleton

30 March 2025