

**Submission  
No 36**

## **INQUIRY INTO ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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## Submission to the Inquiry into antisemitism in New South Wales

To inform its Inquiry into antisemitism in New South Wales, I suggest that the Committee make a point of considering robust data to support their deliberations, with particular attention to the sampling or other methodology deployed in securing the data, reliability of sources, confirming allegations, etc.

Included among the data should be:

- prevalence of incidents of antisemitic violence, including details of any weapons used, any injuries sustained, evidence of antisemitic motivation, identity of assailant;
- prevalence of antisemitism in denying Jews access to employment, education, accommodation, health care, justice, political participation, social participation;
- prevalence of racial profiling of Jews in law enforcement contexts;
- nature, severity, and duration of any physical or psychological effects of exposure to antisemitic stimuli, along with details of how these were assessed, confirmed, and quantified;
- the nature of such stimuli; and
- comparisons of these factors among other racialised populations and the general population in NSW.

It is important that the Committee be prepared to reassess the assumptions underlying many of the aspects of their terms of reference, including, for instance,

- whether the severity of antisemitic incidents is, in fact, increasing, and whether that is the case uniformly ‘across the state’;
- what constitutes ‘student safety’ and ‘social cohesion’, what threatens them, and what could ameliorate the threat;
- whether synagogues require additional security;
- and so forth.

My own personal experience as a Jew residing in regional NSW over a period of some 30 years has been that I am not aware of any antisemitic motivation in any situation where I felt disadvantaged. I find public Christmas decorations, especially in the workplace, feel antisemitic to me. Significantly, this complaint has never met with anything other than derision, as if my experience as a Jew were somehow less valid than some other Jew’s. Individuals have occasionally assumed that I had some association with Israel, which is profoundly offensive and undoubtedly motivated by the antisemitic conceit that all Jews have some inherent connection with that country and that it somehow represents our interests, a conceit, I hasten to add, that Israel and most Jewish ‘communal’ bodies are keen to inculcate.

Dr Harry Feldman

6 April 2025